

A N
AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT
OF THE
E M B A S S Y
OF THE
DUTCH EAST-INDIA COMPANY,
TO THE
COURT OF THE EMPEROR OF CHINA,
In the Years 1794 and 1795;
(SUBSEQUENT TO THAT OF THE EARL OF MACARTNEY.)
CONTAINING A DESCRIPTION OF
SEVERAL PARTS OF THE CHINESE EMPIRE,
UNKNOWN TO
E U R O P E A N S;
TAKEN FROM THE JOURNAL OF
ANDRÉ EVERARD VAN BRAAM,
MANY YEARS CHIEF OF THE DIRECTION OF THAT
COMPANY, AND SECOND IN THE EMBASSY.
TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL OF
M. L. E. MOREAU DE SAINT-MERY.

With a correct Chart of the Route.

VOL. II.

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1798.

J O U R N E Y
OF THE EMBASSY
OF THE
DUTCH EAST-INDIA COMPANY
TO THE COURT OF THE EMPEROR OF CHINA;
IN THE YEARS 1794 AND 1795.

JANUARY 31, 1795.

THE Ambaffador and I fet off this morning at five o'clock in little carts, in order to repair to the Imperial refidence. It being too dark for the driver of mine to diftinguifh objects, he overturned me in a ditch, when we had been about half an hour on our way. Fortunately, as the ice was thick, I received no injury. I quitted the carriage, and got into the road. Another was provided for me, and my firft driver was difmiffed.

The Mandarins, our conductors, expreffed much fatisfaction at my not being hurt; for they

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are responsible for any misfortunes we may experience, even such as affect our existence: for if any of us should accidentally lose his life, the consequences of that event would be such as to endanger their own.

After being an hour on the road, we were conducted through a back gate within the walls. We were then shewn into an apartment at no great distance to the south, there to wait for break of day. That moment being come, we proceeded by a winding road, lined with large trees, towards a great open space in a wood, where a large tent of the Tartar kind, in the form of a dome, had been pitched for the Emperor. A square yellow tent was erected in the front of the other, while six little bell-tents, which stood on the two sides, were destined for the Ministers and Grandees of the Court.

The Emperor's tent was exactly similar in the inside to the halls which I have several times had occasion to mention, and in the middle was an estrade and a throne. I remarked that the instruments and other appendages of the music had been conveyed hither from *Pe-king*.

His Majesty came a little after sun-rise in a
palanquin

palanquin borne by four Mandarins of the gold button. He alighted under the yellow tent, and went on foot to his arm-chair. As soon as he was seated, all the guests performed the salute of honour. The Envoys sat upon cushions placed upon a carpet under the yellow tent in front of the Emperor's, with little breakfast-tables before them as at the preceding *fêtes*.

After the Emperor's table was served, the small tables were likewise uncovered, each consisting of fifty dishes, as on the 20th of this month. I perceived all the guests fall to with a great deal of eagerness and appetite, while we contented ourselves with a little fruit, and with viewing the rest of the company. His Majesty again sent us a dish from his, and shortly after a dish of the milk of beans was presented to each of the guests.

The Emperor's breakfast being over, we went with the three Corean Ambassadors to repeat, as upon former occasions, the salute of honour before the throne, with our heads covered. His Majesty himself then presented us with a glass of Chinese wine, with the taste of which I was much pleased. He asked the Ambassador if he were not very cold, and enquired of me, whether in

the whole course of my life I had ever been present at such ceremonies before. As soon as the interpreter had conveyed to him our answers, we returned to our seats.

While all this was passing, the orchestra executed several pieces of music; feats of sleight and activity were performed; and at a little distance a play was represented. These various entertainments produced a confusion that soon fatigued the mind, and banished every idea of amusement.

The Emperor being gone, every one rose and followed his example. We were then conducted towards a serpentine canal, there to wait for the arrival of the two principal Ministers, who were not long before they made their appearance. We advanced a few steps to meet them, and saluted them in the European manner.

The *Voo-tchong-tang* spoke to us with the greatest air of kindness, and gave orders for our being conducted to the place whither he was going himself. He set off upon a sled, and we followed him in another. After being drawn a considerable distance, we came to the front of a building which the Ministers entered. We also alighted and followed them, passing through
several

several apartments which, according to the Chinese custom, constantly opened into each other. They were all decently furnished.

Upon coming to a little pool that was entirely thawed, the Ministers stopped to make us remark a number of gold fish of an extraordinary size; for the smallest was about fifteen inches long, and the rest a great deal larger. We were assured that these beautiful animals were exceedingly old.

Hence we were shewn into all the little apartments which constitute the Emperor's daily habitation. They are very numerous, of small dimensions, neatly furnished in the Chinese taste, and containing a few books and some very valuable curiosities. Three only of these apartments can boast of European time-pieces. Each room has a sofa for the Monarch, as also a couple of stools, but no such thing as a chair.

After having examined this edifice, the Prime Minister ordered the *Naa-san-tayen* to carry us to see some other buildings. We then took leave of that worthy Minister, in order to follow our conductor.

After a quarter of an hour's walk along a high road, we came to a vast and magnificent palace, in the front of which is a very extensive square. On each side of this square is a spacious paved court, corresponding with one of the wings of the building. These wings seem intended as lodgings for the officers of the court, and the inferior Mandarins. Two pedestals of white marble stand in the middle of the court-yards, and support two very large bronze lions, which may be considered as well executed by the artist, because they accord with the idea that the Chinese form of that animal, which is entirely unknown in their country.

The first hall in the front of the building is very large, and hung with a great many lanterns, in the Chinese fashion. In the middle of it, as in the other halls I have described, is an estrade, and an arm-chair, or Imperial throne. After having crossed this hall, we found ourselves in an inner paved court, of a square form. The buildings on the north and west sides of this court afford as rich and as beautiful a view as the eastern facade we first came to; while on the south side there is nothing but a great gate leading into it, with offices for servants at each end.

Within

Within this gate, which corresponds with the north front, stands, as it were to mask it, a large rock of one entire piece upon a number of stones that serve it as a base. The carriage of this rock must have occasioned immense trouble and labour, as well as the operation of placing it upon its base; for its bulk and weight constitute a prodigious mass. Every side of it is honoured with inscriptions in the Emperor's own hand, and in that of several other persons of the highest rank who have imitated the example of the Monarch. In several parts of it are also dwarf trees and flowers.

Within this court, at the middle of the north front, stand two little stags, and two cranes, all of bronze, and of indifferent execution. The north side of the building contains an Imperial audience chamber with a throne in the centre, and lanterns in every part. Our conductor pointed out to us the coach of which Lord Macartney made a present to the Emperor last year, standing against the wall on the left side of the throne. It is exquisitely painted, perfectly well varnished, and the whole of the carriage is covered with gilding. The harness and the rest of the equipage are in the body of the coach, which is covered with a linen cloth. I perceived on the

opposite side of the hall a thing which made a remarkable contrast with this splendid vehicle, that is to say a Chinese waggon with four wheels of equal height, very clumsy, painted green all over, and in every respect resembling the waggons used in Holland for the purpose of carrying manure.

I confess this sight set my imagination to work. Was this waggon placed here with a view of opposing the idea of its utility to that of the superfluity of a carriage so sumptuous, at least according to the estimation of the Chinese? I was thus giving way to my conjectures, when I was told that the waggon is the very same that is made use of at the annual ceremony when the Emperor pays a solemn homage to agriculture in the Temple of the Earth. Behind this hall are several small apartments which the Emperor occupies when resident here.

After passing through those apartments we came to the third range of buildings or western edifice which has only a small hall in the centre. The remainder is composed of a great number of little confined and irregular rooms, opening into one another, and forming all together a sort of labyrinth.

When

When we had inspected the whole of them, the Mandarin ushered us into the favourite cabinet of the Emperor, which bears the name of *Tien* (Heaven). It is indeed the most agreeable place of those that have been shewn us; as well on account of its situation, as of the different views which it commands. Nothing can equal the prospect that the Emperor may enjoy when, sitting in his arm-chair, he turns his eyes towards a large window consisting of a single pane of glass—a prospect of which the reader will himself be able to form an idea from the sequel of this description. This cabinet is in a part of the building situated upon an extensive lake which washes its walls.

This lake was the first object that attracted our attention. In the midst of it is an island of considerable magnitude, on which several buildings have been erected that are dependencies of this Imperial residence, and overshadowed by lofty trees. The island communicates with the adjacent continent by a noble bridge of seventeen arches, built of hewn stone, and standing on the eastern side. This bridge was the next thing that our eyes rested upon.

Turning

Turning to the westward, the sight is gratified by the view of a lake smaller than the former, and only separated from it by a wide road. In the midst of it is a kind of citadel of a circular form, with a handsome edifice in its centre. These two lakes communicate by a channel cut through the road that divides them, while a stone bridge of considerable height, and of a single arch, supplies the defect in the communication by land which that channel occasions.

Still further to the westward, and at a great distance, the eye is arrested by two towers standing on the tops of lofty mountains.

To the north-west stands a magnificent range of edifices belonging to temples, constructed at the foot, in the middle, and upon the summit of a mountain entirely formed by art, with fragments of natural rocks, which, independently of the expence of the buildings, must have cost immense sums, since this kind of stone is only to be found at a great distance from the place. This work seems to represent the enterprize of the giants who attempted to scale the Heavens: at least rocks heaped upon rocks recal that ancient fiction to the mind. The assemblage of the buildings and picturesque embellishments of the
mountains

mountains afford a view of which the pen can give no adequate idea. It is not then without reason that this cabinet is the favourite apartment of the aged Monarch.

The inside of it is furnished with a library, and shelves on which are collected all the most valuable and scarce Chinese productions, consisting both of precious stones and antiques; and certainly they are highly deserving of the attention with which we examined them.

After having passed a considerable time in this building with real pleasure, we came to the south front, where we found a sled, which conveyed us towards the Temples that I have mentioned above.

They are five separate pagodas; two are at the foot of the mountain; one fronting the north, the other the south. Two others are situated near its middle and in the same position; and the fifth is upon its summit.

The lower temple fronting the south contains an idol, which is the image of sensuality. It is very large, and entirely gilt. It represents a person of enormous corpulence, sitting upon a cushion,

cushion, with an air expressive of satisfaction and gaiety. In this pagoda there are besides a great number of other idols, but of smaller dimensions and less importance.

In the south temple in the middle of the mountain, the principal idol is the figure of a woman, about sixty feet high, with six faces and a thousand arms, like that of the Temple of *Tay-fay-tin* at *Pe-king*, of which I made mention the day before yesterday.

This temple forms, as it were, a nave and two aisles, by means of two rows of supports or pillars standing lengthwise. All along both the walls and the pillars are imitations of rocks, with cavities containing idols and saints by hundreds, and composing altogether a spectacle of a very singular and striking kind.

From this part of the mountain to which we had ascended by at least a hundred and twenty steps, we climbed towards its summit by means of a path winding between rocks, and of forty eight more steps, the shortest of which were a foot in height. Hence we discovered *Pe-king* in the south-east, and in the intermediate ground could distinguish several habitations or establishments,

ments, which are so many dependencies of *Yuen-ming-yuen*.

The fifth temple is upon the summit of the mountain; its construction is in many respects similar to that of a tower, and in it we found three images in a fitting posture of enormous size, and entirely gilt. These are the principal idols of the temple. In one of the lower stories, and opposite these great images, are nine goddesses also fitting and gilt, but much smaller, while on each side are nine bronze statues of saints, all of colossal size, and very well executed.

The walls behind the great idols are covered from one end to the other by large pannels, each of which contains several hundred figures of gods made of bronze, and placed in small niches. The outer walls of the temple are coated with varnished bricks, such as I have described in speaking of the Temple of *Houing-on-tzu* in the Imperial palace of *Pe king*, and having like those of that temple the figure of a *Jos* in *bas-relief* in the middle.

Having taken a sufficient view of this last temple, we descended the north side of the mountain by steps of rugged stones, and came to the
temple

temple mid-way up the mountain, and fronting the north. Its principal idol is gilt all over, and represents a goddess with a number of arms. The lower part of this temple, like the second which we visited, is divided into three portions; and on the walls and pillars are an imitation of clouds, full of images of *Jos*, which produce upon the whole a pleasing effect.

From this temple we descended to the lower one fronting the north, in which is a colossal goddess about ninety feet high, with four faces and forty-four arms. On each side, but standing a little forwarder, are two other idols, at least forty-five feet high, and seeming to adore the goddess. In this temple are also two superb quadrangular pyramids standing upon marble pedestals, the sides of which are covered with *Jos* of bronze.

The inner wall is entirely coated with bricks, enriched with flowers in *bas-relief* of different colours, and all of them varnished. Against the wall stand columns, the shafts of which rising six feet above the base are coated with bronze.

The five temples contain besides vases for perfumes and other sacred utensils all of bronze,
and

and exquisitely wrought. There is not a single one among them that for beauty of subject and delicacy of workmanship may not be justly compared with those that are to be seen in the temples at *Pe-king*.

Each of these temples has also a fore-court and a portico, with some marble decorations in the interior of the court.

Upon the top of the rocks piled upon one another in the stupendous manner I have mentioned, are two square open pavilions of symmetrical construction, as well as two little houses in the shape of towers, and several other small apartments. Their roofs are embellished with varnished tiles, green, blue, and yellow; sometimes disposed in squares or compartments in which those various tints are combined, or else being of one and the same colour. Some of these little buildings are even coated on the outside with smooth square tiles so varnished that when the sun strikes upon them they reflect all the splendor of his beams.

But instead of rashly undertaking to express and describe with my weak pen all that my eyes admired; instead of endeavouring to communicate to my reader's mind, the many, the varied

and the extraordinary sensations produced incessantly in mine by the sight of so many things, in which singularity, magnificence, boldness of design, and skill of execution were combined, it will be more simple and more natural to confess my incapability. The pencil of a great master is wanting to create in some sort anew so many accumulated wonders, and even then I will venture to say, without seeking to save my own credit, that the copy will never be equal to the original.

With what pleasure would I have sacrificed a sum of money to obtain a plan, and a dozen of the most interesting views of this magnificent summer palace. For to try to give by description an idea of Chinese architecture, particularly that of the Imperial residence, would be a fruitless endeavour, and almost a loss of time, the mode of construction in that country not having the smallest analogy with European architecture. I am indeed so much convinced that every description of that kind, unassisted by drawings, would not be understood, that I shall abandon the attempt.

On quitting the pagodas we were led along a very pleasant winding road, neatly paved with
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little pebbles, overshadowed by trees, passing sometimes over hills, and sometimes through valleys; such a road in short, as in summer, when every thing is green, must make a most delightful promenade.

After a few minutes walk we came to a groupe of small buildings inclosed within the walls of an Imperial palace which overlooks them, being as much superior to them in height as it exceeds them in size. They form a kind of village, in the midst of which runs a stream of very limpid water, skirted with small rocks on each side, and at this moment free from ice. These buildings are not inhabited at present, but during summer, when his Majesty makes *Yuen-ming-yuen* his residence, they serve as shops for tradesmen of all sorts, who come there to sell their goods, and compose something not unlike one of our fairs. It is possible that this place may then be very lively and amusing, and that the water that runs through it may at once furnish the means of cleanliness, and serve to keep it cool.

Thence we were conducted towards another assemblage of buildings, where the *Voo-tchong-tang* waited for us in one of the halls. We advanced towards him, and paid him our compli-

ments, accompanied by a genuflexion. For this Prime Minister, this first agent of the Empire, is called, as I have before observed, THE SECOND EMPEROR; and in some respects the Chinese pay almost as much honour to him as to the Emperor himself: nobody dares speak to him without bending the knee. He received us with an affability which had all the characteristics of sincerity, and asked us our opinion of what we had seen. Our interpreter conveyed to him the expression of our pleasure, our satisfaction, and our well-grounded astonishment, and above all, our praise of his Majesty's little cabinet. The Prime Minister then told us that the Emperor, being exceedingly pleased with the persons selected for the Dutch Embassy, had wished to give us a proof of his favour and affection, by granting more to us than to any other foreigner, since the foot of an alien had never before trod in the private apartments of his Majesty, nor had any European eye ever perceived what we had been permitted to examine; that very few even of the natives of the country were fortunate enough to approach those places; and that we might thence judge how far the Monarch had carried his preference and predilection. We endeavoured on our part to shew our high sense of the honour
done

done us, and the greatness of our respectful gratitude.

To give us a mark of still farther favour, the Prime Minister made us a present in the name of the Emperor. That for the Ambassador consisted of four rolls of silk, several embroidered purses to hold tobacco, a small bottle for snuff, and two porringers of porcelain. Mine was the same, except that I had only two rolls of silk. We returned our thanks by performing the salute of honour.

The Prime Minister then made us sit down opposite him upon cushions laid on the ground, and pastry and sweetmeats were handed to us. Upon tasting some of them we found them as good as we could have desired in Europe. We were afterwards presented with a dish of tea.

His Excellency and I then rose, and approaching the Minister, the Ambassador again offered him in the name of our Prince, and of the Dutch East-India Company, the presents that were intended for him, entreating him to accept them, according to the example of the Prime Ministers, at the time of the other Dutch Embassies. He answered in a very kind manner; but persisted in

his refusal by saying that it would ill become him to take gifts presented by those who had already suffered so much fatigue in so long a journey; and added, that he begged us to excuse his not accepting our offers, and to spare him any new solicitations on the subject.

His Excellency on this abstained from any farther mention of presents; but he requested another favour, that of returning to *Canton* by water. The *Voo-tchong-tang* very graciously promised us his intercession with the Emperor. We then returned to our places, and again took some refreshments in consequence of the pressing entreaties of the Prime Minister.

He sent us his watch, desiring us to let him know what we thought of it. As it was made by Arnold, we had it in our power to praise it without flattery. The *Voo-tchong-tang* then desired to see ours; and afterwards spoke of the high price of some watches in the possession of our mechanist, which he said he should be glad to buy at an easier rate, observing at the same time that his only cost him three hundred and seventy-five livres. It would have been easy for us to give him a very intelligible explanation of this low price; but the fear of the consequences that
might

might have attended it in respect to the transactions of the Mandarins and merchants of Canton, and particularly the risk that might be run by the former, prevented me from going into particulars; and we contented ourselves with expressing our surprize at such a watch being procured for so small a sum.

When the conversation had lasted a few minutes longer the Prime Minister rose; we did the same; and then after taking a friendly leave he left us. The pastry and sweetmeats that remained on our tables were put into our handkerchiefs and delivered to our servants.

On going hence we passed along a winding and stony road, by the side of which runs murmuring along a stream of the most pellucid water. After a few turns we came to a building near a back gate, where our carts were waiting for us.

There we left the *Naa-san-tayen*, after having thanked him for accompanying us with so much complaisance; then, seating ourselves in our splendid cars, we drove to our lodgings. As our return took place during the day, we remarked that we were passing along a large place composed of several streets entirely lined with hand-

some shops, which, added to the crowds passing to and fro, furnished a presumption of considerable commerce.

It was a quarter past eleven when we got back to our hotel, exceedingly well pleased with the agreeable and unexpected excursion we had been making for the last two hours and a quarter. I only regretted that the rest of the party had not partaken of our pleasure.

I endeavoured even to discover the reason of their exclusion, and was told that apprehensions were entertained lest M. Agie, our French interpreter, who understands the Mandarin language too well, at least for the interest of our Mandarins, should be dangerous if, in conversing with him, too nice enquiries should be made concerning many things relative to Canton. This is the reason of their taking so much care to let nobody but the Ambassador and myself appear at court. Perhaps there would have been no objection to including in the number of the favourites of the day the three Dutch gentlemen in the suite of the Embassy, if it would not have been too clearly marking the exclusion of the others, and a breach of all decorum. It was, therefore, deemed most prudent to admit nobody but his Excellency and me

me into these extraordinary parties, which were a distinguished mark of his Majesty's favour. I am, however, promised, that all our gentlemen shall be present at an entertainment and fireworks that are to take place on a very early day.

From the tenor of the *Voo-tchong-tang's* discourse this morning, I see plainly that the court is not acquainted with the underhand dealings of the Mandarins at Canton; and I doubt not but the merchants who manage the affairs of the *Cohang* are concerned in those intrigues. It is certain that even in London Arnold never sold a watch for three hundred and seventy-five livres, and that no Chinese merchant could be able to procure one at Canton for less than six or eight times that sum. But to pay their court to the Mandarins, and particularly to the *Hou-pou*, who is a kind of god in their eyes, and who is charged by the Grandees of the Empire to procure them European merchandize, they part with commodities at a price inferior to their value, and give receipts which are sent to *Pe-king* with the articles purchased. Hence it results that the Emperor and the great personages about court are perfectly ignorant of the real price of things executed by the celebrated artists of Europe. If, indeed, it were otherwise, would the Prime

Minister have told us with so much candour what he had paid for his watch and other trinkets which he shewed us with that simplicity which characterizes truth.

I must observe that the Ministers of State never accept a present from any one whatever, without the express permission of the Emperor. It is consequently proper that they should have receipts for every thing they procure.

But it is well known that the *Cohang* has a particular fund at Canton, arising from the duties paid on all goods imported or exported by Europeans, except woollen cloth and other manufactured articles. These duties were established in 1779 by the *Tsong-tou*, for the following reason:

An English ship of war, called the *Seahorse*, commanded by Captain Panton, being come to Canton to enforce the definitive recovery of what was due to British merchants from three or four great Chinese houses which had failed; a recovery which the English supercargoes were never able to effect by their own applications, it was thought proper to lay on a tax for ten years in order to extinguish the debt. But the impost
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has survived the motive of its creation, the duties still continuing to be received.

It is from these receipts that the merchants, without any loss to themselves, affect to be generous, and give the Mandarins the most valuable things for a trifle, being sure to find in the fund a ready indemnity.

It is, then, easy to conceive that the great presents made by the merchants to the Mandarins, cost them absolutely nothing; but that they are made at the expence of the Europeans, whose merchandize still continues to be oppressed by a tax which ought no longer to exist. It is surprising that a general demand for its suppression has not been made; for although this impost appears indirect, its effect is not less real than that of an impost upon bread, which falls upon the poor although they buy it of the baker, who says not a word to them of the tax.

I think, however, that every representation would be useless unless it were supported like the demand of the English; for both Mandarins and merchants find in this abuse the means of satisfying their thirst after gain. It would, indeed, be impossible for the latter to comply with
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the interested views of the former if such a source were dried up. A system of corruption so well contrived must necessarily continue to exist, and to acquire new strength every day, till it reaches those limits when the abuse, become monstrous and pernicious in the extreme, both to commerce and traders, shall call for reform in a manner too imperative to be despised.

February 1. This day has been a day of repose, and, for the first time for a great while past, we have enjoyed the blessing of an uninterrupted night's rest.

The Mandarin, our conductor, came about noon to give us notice to hold ourselves in readiness to go to-morrow at twelve o'clock to court, where we shall probably stay till the evening is far advanced. He advised us to dine before our departure, that we might afterwards be the more masters of our time,

Every day our conductors become more and more polite, and redouble their attention, because they perceive with what distinction their monarch treats us, and with what kindness he wishes to procure us frequent enjoyments. Convinced that they are so many marks of high favour,

favour, they take from them, as it were, the measure of what is due to our character, it being notorious to every one that his Majesty is exceedingly well satisfied with the Embassy, and with the conduct of those belonging to it. I can attest that he never passed in his palanquin by any place where we were, without turning his eyes towards us with a look expressive of kindness, which is one of the most marked attentions that the manners of China would permit him to shew us.

2d. Although our conductors had urged our dining at an early hour, we did not leave our lodgings till past three o'clock. After having been driven three quarters of an hour in a carriage, we were conducted through a great gate into a wood, in which were pitched several round tents of the Tartarian kind. We were placed in one of them to wait for the Emperor's arrival, who came a little before five o'clock, and seated himself in a kind of niche in the centre of the building.

That building consists of two stories, the upper one of which is occupied by the females of the Emperor's family. But in point of construction it is the least remarkable of any we have yet seen,

seen, nothing about it bespeaking an Imperial residence. There were openings of a single pane of glass in the windows for the ladies to peep through in order to see into the square, in the midst of which the building stands. This square, called *San-cou-chui-tchung*, is the same in which the Emperor's tent was erected the day before yesterday.

A little before his Majesty's arrival we were desired to sit down upon cushions, laid flat on carpets covering the ground, in order to see the fireworks. Some wrestlers, tumblers, musicians, and a miserable rope-dancer amused the old Monarch with their tiresome performances, which were of so wretched a kind, that in Europe they would hardly have attracted any spectators whatever.

At half past five preparations began to be made for the exhibition of the fireworks. The whole was brought in two great and two small covered waggons, the former containing three great pieces each; the latter a single piece, consisting of a great number of lanterns. There were, besides, a great many wheels, serpents, and other fireworks, but no rockets. The pieces brought in the great covered waggons were very pretty,

pretty, and were alone deserving of attention, the rest not being comparable to European productions of the same kind. It is, besides, matter of regret that fireworks should be exhibited in the day-time, the light destroying their most brilliant effects; but the old Monarch is so much afraid of fire, that he will never permit any to be displayed during the night. Even at these two little European fire-engines were ready, as well as a great number of tubs full of water, and pails, to extinguish the burning paper of the crackers, as soon as their explosion should be at end.

A little after six o'clock the whole was over, and we returned to our hotel, whither a messenger came to give notice to his Excellency and me to prepare again to go at an early hour tomorrow to court, where we were expected to breakfast.

3d. We were on our way to court at four o'clock in the morning. While waiting for daylight to appear we first stopped in a little apartment, and afterwards walked towards a magnificent edifice, which we had not yet seen, and in front of which is a large open square. It has a great resemblance to the second building that we visited on the 31st of January. It has also a
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court-yard,

court-yard, in which stand two lions of bronze upon pedestals of marble, but they are smaller than those of the other edifice.

From this open space or esplanade we were conducted through a very large gate with three passages, into a court in the front of it entirely paved with smooth stones. The gate itself is an edifice two stories high; is of the same construction and magnitude; and is laid out in the same manner as that of the palace of *Pe-king*, of which I made mention on the 20th of January, except that here the hall called *Tjing-tay-quong-ming* is paved with white marble, as well as the front gallery, at the two ends of which are also placed all manner of musical instruments. The hall is hung round with Chinese lanterns of various shapes.

At sun-rise the *Voo-tchong-tang* entered, and came immediately towards us to inform the Ambassador that his Majesty had given orders that on our return we should travel for the first eighteen days over land, and afterwards entirely by water; but that during the whole journey we should be conducted in any way we might prefer, and be provided with all possible accommodations. We thanked him for this arrangement,
against

against which we had not the smallest objection to make.

He afterwards went to the inner part of the hall, where the Emperor, who soon after made his appearance, seated himself in his arm-chair. The ceremonial, entertainments, music, little tables of fifty dishes, every thing in short was the same as the day before yesterday. We had, however, to-day a serious dance, which had not taken place at the former festivals. It was executed by a set of Mandarins, who first advanced two by two, and afterwards made some measured movements with their arms and feet, keeping time with the music, but without shifting their ground, and only turning round upon that which they occupied. Each pair of dancers exercised themselves in this way for about three minutes, after which they performed the salute of honour and retired.

These Mandarins were all dressed in the same manner. The buttons on their caps were oval, hexagonal, and of different colours, blue, white, and coralline. The caps had a thick covering of very fine raw silk; and from the hind part a kind of flap or hood fell back upon their shoulders. Round their necks they wore several rows
of

of large beads, hanging down to the breast. I asked of what rank they were, and here follows what I was able to collect:

They are called *Chiouais*, and are a body solely composed of the sons of the principal Mandarins of the Empire, such as the *Tsong-tous*, the *Tay-toys*, the *Fou-yuens*, and others of the first rank. They are taught the military art, and ought to understand the use of the bow and arrow to perfection. The first class is the *Yuchin-Chiouais*, who guard the doors of the exterior of the palace, and always remain near the Emperor's person: their button is of red coral. The second class consists of the *Tinchin-Chiouais* to whose care the external gates of the palace are entrusted: their button is dark blue. Last comes the third class, or common *Chiouais*, who are armed with bows and arrows, and accompany the Emperor's palanquin, either on foot or horseback, whenever he makes a long excursion. Their button is of a dull and milky white.

The object of their dance is an homage which they pay once a year to the Emperor in this place; shewing, by the movements of their arms, that they are always ready to defend his power and protect his person.

There

There seems to be a great conformity between this body of Mandarins and the persons who in the courts of Europe are styled chamberlains, gentlemen in waiting, and body-guards; comparing to each rank one of the classes of *Chionais*. The two first of these have their posts of honour like the chamberlains and gentlemen in waiting, while the third serve in the same capacity as body guards. It was the latter who escorted the Emperor on horseback with their bows and arrows when he was going to the Temple of Heaven on the 27th of January, and when he returned on the following day.

I am now, then, enabled to say, that his Imperial Majesty has a body of life guards, which I did not before imagine, never having seen in attendance upon him any persons armed even with sabres. Every body goes to court without arms. We never even appeared there with our swords, leaving them at our hotel in conformity with the wish expressed by the Mandarins in consequence of the Emperor's orders.

Once only I saw the *Chionais* appear in a body before the Emperor with their swords by their side. This was on the 20th of January, and their dress was then entirely different, being

close and richly embroidered with dragons of gold, which gave them a very magnificent appearance.

To-day the two principal Ministers had their robes by their sides for a few minutes at the time of the Emperor's arrival ; but in general no military Mandarin wears his sword as a mark of his office, unless when in the field, whereas in Europe an officer is always obliged to appear with arms.

At court the Mandarins wear no distinctive mark except that which is embroidered alike upon the breast and back of their robes. It consists of lions and dragons for the military Mandarins, and of cranes, stags, and herons for Mandarins of letters. Hence the department to which they belong is known. It is from the body of the *Chionais*, that the greater number of Mandarins are taken for the provinces, where they are appointed to military employs, and in general they rise to the highest dignities of their profession.

We were to-day taken once more to the foot of the throne, where we received a glass of wine from the Monarch's own hand, after which we returned

returned to our places. Soon after the Emperor arose, which terminated every thing, and we returned to our lodgings. We got there at a quarter past nine.

The reason which prevents our returning entirely by water is the idea that there will not be a thaw, in less than six weeks, sufficient to render the rivers navigable; and that our stay, if prolonged to the end of that time, would be too long in itself, and tiresome to us, who are kept in a sort of confinement. We shall then take in part a different route from that which brought us to *Pe-king*, and shall pass through the province of *Shan-tong*, which, independent of variety, will procure us a sight of regions whither as yet no foreigner has penetrated. We shall take every day as the measure of our journey's duration, that of the sun above the horizon, and at *Von-ca-son*, which is two day's journey within the province of *Kiang-nam*, we shall embark. Such is the outline of the report made to us this day by one of our Canton Mandarins.

We are easily reconciled to the idea of these new fatigues, and prefer a speedy end to our captivity to all the attentions which are lavished upon us here. O delightful liberty! we do not begin to

be sensible of thy value till threatened with the loss of thine inestimable enjoyments.

I this day received a letter from my friend Grammont, to whom I returned an answer immediately. He is still in hopes of seeing us shortly.

This afternoon, at three o'clock, our whole party went again to court to see an exhibition of fireworks; but as the wind was high, a messenger was sent to us, after half an hour had elapsed, to say that his Majesty had suspended the festival for that evening. We set off directly for our lodgings.

Having obtained at Canton from the merchant Paonkequa twenty drawings, consisting of views of *Yuen-ming-yuen*, in order to copy them, I was naturally surprized, after finding among them representations of edifices built and laid out in the European manner, to find none of the same kind at *Yuen-ming-yuen* itself. I therefore asked our conductors if such buildings did really exist? They told me in answer that they did; that they were ten *li* distance from *Hoi-tim*, the place where we now are; and that they are occupied by part of the Emperor's wives. Upon my enquiring whether

whether we could not go to see them, I was told that I must beg the *Naa-san-tayen* to ask permission of the *Voo-tchong-tang*. I mean to take the first favourable opportunity to obtain that pleasure, if possible.

We had also an idea of paying a visit to the great walls or rampart of China; but hearing that they are two hundred *li* off, we shall not make the request, because it is probable that the trouble so long a journey would occasion might make our obtaining permission a matter of doubt.

4th. This is a day of rest, as to us, on account of an eclipse of the moon, which obliges the Emperor and all the grandees of the Empire to retire into their inner apartments, and put on mourning. His Majesty on such occasions is entirely taken up with the performance of some pious rites in favour of the Sun or Moon, in order to rescue them from the dreadful fate with which they are threatened by the great dragon, who obscures the splendor of one or other of those planets, by holding them in his mouth with the intention of swallowing them. The Chinese persist in this miserable superstition, to which they have been addicted from time immemorial, although the most plain demonstrations of a pla-

netarium show them that the event is natural, and the eclipses of the moon are caused by the interposition of the earth between the sun and moon while the latter is at the full; in like manner as the eclipses of the sun are produced at the time of the new moon, by its interposition between the sun and the earth. But the attachment of this nation for the ideas of its ancestors, and its veneration for the commandments it has received from them, are so strong, that a son never dares to appear more learned than his father. It is from this rule of its ancient philosophers, which should rather be taken in a figurative than a literal sense, that results its little progress in all the sciences, and its blind attachment to old customs.

It is evident that the scientific knowledge possessed by the Chinese is of very ancient date, and that they obtained it long before the sciences were known in Europe. But every thing has remained in its primitive state, without their ever seeking, like the Europeans, to make farther progress, or to bring their discoveries to perfection. We have consequently far surpassed them. Nor can a doubt be entertained of their perceiving it; but they are utterly regardless of this superiority. Fully satisfied with their sum

of intelligence; persuaded that it suffices for all the wants of their existence; and considering our advance towards perfection as useless, and absolutely superfluous, they are resolved to make no attempts to follow us. Besides, in doing so, they would be obliged to violate the precept I have already mentioned.

I must once more observe, that there is no nation so servilely attached to the usages and maxims of its ancestors as the Chinese. And we shall cease to be astonished at it, when we know that filial respect is without bounds among them; that this tie of nature stands in the stead of legislation, the place of which it entirely supplies; and that their great philosopher *Kong-fou-tsé*, by deducing all his principles of family relations from those between father and son, found means to acquire an authority, which served in its turn to strengthen that first natural sentiment, that primary foundation of every social system. And does it not seem as if the divine blessing promised by the commandment that requires the children of Israel to honour their parents, were become the portion of the Chinese! It is also in the execution of this sacred law, that, according to my weak judgment, we ought to seek the cause of the long duration of this nation, the only one, excepting the

Japanese (subject also to the strict observance of the same precept), which has preserved itself the same from a period which is lost in the most remote antiquity.

In the rest of the universe, Empires have disappeared after having been overthrown and destroyed, and the greater part of them have only left an empty name, and the sterile renown of a splendour which is no more. In China, on the contrary, even the change of dynasty, by transferring the power to a Tartarian prince, did not change the nation. The conqueror, guided by a wise principle, instead of introducing the laws of his country, adopted those of the conquered, and thus becoming a Chinese himself, the Chinese nation was preserved entire by keeping its name, its language, and its manners. The Tartars, on their side, have remained a separate people, a kind of distinct empire, and enjoy to this day their own language and their own laws.

We may suppose, with great reason, we may even go so far as to consider it as almost certain, that the Chinese will remain a flourishing people to the utmost limits of time that thought can reach; because nature herself must henceforth protect their country against all enterprizes and
all

all invasions, so that it is impossible to attack them with any hope of subjecting them, to a foreign power, or of ruining their country.

To the north, inhospitable deserts of considerable extent refuse a passage to a numerous army and the immense train that follows it, because it affords them no means of subsistence. To the southward and eastward rivers of small depth of water deny access to a fleet, while narrow highways prevent the regular march of an army, however small, that may have landed upon the coast. It would not indeed find any thing like a road to penetrate into the interior of the country, but paths only fit for a single man on foot or horseback, and frequently interrupted by ditches, ravines, and rivers, which are so many means of protection. To the west the defence of China consists in inaccessible mountains and impenetrable woods.

Thus guarded on every side, the Chinese have no reason to fear the destructive consequences which have resulted from war to so many other nations. The only means then of disturbing them would be the keeping up of a secret understanding with a part of the nation ; but the difficulty of their language is a still more unsurmountable obstacle

obstacle than all those which I have enumerated above. That language is an eternal barrier placed between them and the rest of mankind; and time, while adding century to century, cannot weaken it, unless by overturning the whole surface of the globe.

I do not mean that from these truths it should be inferred that the Chinese may make a jest with impunity of any attempt by the Europeans to compel them to make such reforms as are necessary to put a stop to the scandalous exactions and barefaced frauds of the Mandarins of Canton, which are so burdensome to the commerce of Europe; so far from it, I am of opinion that such a measure would be attended with but little trouble and expence, even if undertaken by a single nation. But I think it prudent not to explain myself more fully upon the subject, and to pass over in silence both the project and the plan.

5th. In the morning a great Mandarin came on the part of the Emperor with presents intended for our Prince the Stadtholder, the Ambassador, and me. We performed the salute of honour, to express our gratitude.

Our

Our first conductor from Canton also came to inform me that he had received orders from his Imperial Majesty to take us back to that city, and that the Emperor had himself fixed our departure for the twenty-sixth day of the moon (the fifteenth of the present month). Agreeably with his request, I intimated this determination to the Ambassador.

As I am desirous of seeing before our departure the edifices at *Yuen-ming-yuen* that are constructed in the European manner, I begged the Mandarin, our conductor, to solicit this favour in my name of the Prime Minister. He observed to me that these edifices, being occupied by the Emperor's wives, it was impossible for them to be shewn to us. I replied that our curiosity would be satisfied by only seeing the outside, were it even at some distance, as we only wished to have the satisfaction of saying that we had perceived them. He then promised me to use his interest with the *Voo-tchong-tang*.

Our court conductor made his appearance afterwards, to give us notice that our whole party was expected this afternoon at the palace to be spectators of the fireworks.

We

We set off in consequence for the same place as the last time, and again waited under a tent in the wood for half an hour. Thence we were desired to go to the esplanade in front of the building, where we sat down. On the Emperor's arrival, his Excellency and I were removed from the place where we were into the paved court, in which we were alone, while the Ambassador's suite remained on the esplanade without. The upper story of the building was again full of ladies.

After his Majesty had been seated a few moments, a cup of milk of beans was brought to him, and the same was afterwards presented to all the guests. The wrestlers, the musicians, and the tumblers, continued their exercises till sun-set, when the fireworks began, which differed little from those we had seen before, except that at the end there was a kind of sham fight performed at a small distance under the trees. Fireworks were directed by each party against the other, and made a report which imitated that of muskets, and even that of heavy artillery, in an astonishing manner. This part of the entertainment was in fact the most amusing, because it fully equalled the expectations of the spectators, and gave reason to regret that the effect was not aided

aided by the darkness of night. The whole was over before six o'clock, and in half an hour after we had reached our home.

The Mandarin, who has the direction of our lodgings, told us that we were to set off tomorrow morning for *Pe-king*; but that his Excellency and I were to return in two days to pay our respects to the Emperor.

As there seems to be no inclination to shew us any thing more of this Imperial residence, we were very glad to return to *Pe-king*, because our baggage was there, and our lodgings are more comfortable.

6th. At half past six we quitted *Hoi-tim*, and reached our hotel at half past twelve. Having returned by the same road we went, we had no opportunity of observing any thing new, except that when we had gone about half way we passed near a magnificent pagoda, by the side of which is a convent and many circumjacent buildings, which have all the outward appearance of Imperial edifices. I was told that the great bell so famous throughout China is kept in this place, which is called *Tay-chong-miao*.

Being

Being come to the city of *Pe-king* itself, we entered a street that we had not yet seen, at a part where another more considerable street intercepts it at right angles. A square has been formed out of this cross-way, by the erection of four triumphal arches, having three passages each, and adorned with a profusion of painting, gilding, and sculpture. These four triumphal arches, which correspond with the middle of the streets, stand opposite each other, and in a straight line with the houses of the two cross streets. The four buildings forming the angles of the square are of uniform construction, and two stories high; their fronts being also ornamented with painting and gilding. All these decorations give the place a very handsome appearance. As to the rest, there are here as well as in the other streets of *Pe-king* a great crowd, and little tents filled with every kind of merchandise.

After dinner, our court conductor came to tell me that his Excellency and I were to return the day after to-morrow to *Yuen-ming-yuen*, to wait upon the Emperor in the afternoon, and to return in the evening to *Pe-king*. I communicated this to the Ambassador.

Shortly

Shortly after we had a visit from the *Naa-san-tayen*. I begged him, since our departure was so near, to endeavour to obtain leave for us to have the Missionaries at our hotel for the last three days, particularly Messrs. Grammont and Roux, the former of those two gentlemen being my intimate friend. He again promised to do every thing in his power.

I also asked to see the celebrated Chinese bell, and he undertook to solicit the Prime Minister's permission.

He then shewed me a common square bottle which he had brought with him, and in which was a little wooden mill, turned by fine sand falling through a kind of funnel at the top of the bottle upon the ladle boards of the wheel. In short, it was one of those play-things which are to be found in a thousand different shapes, and to be purchased for a trifle in a European fair. He asked me if I was acquainted with this piece of mechanism? I told him that I had seen a great number, and of a much handsomer external form. He then asked me why we had brought nothing with us of the same kind? I observed in answer, that as in our country they only serve for the amusement of children, we had
not

not supposed that they would give the least pleasure, or excite the smallest attention. He assured us of the contrary, and spoke in the language of a man who thinks himself the possessor of a wonder. This opinion was even strengthened when I set the mill a-going, by putting new sand in the fire, and by shewing him that after all ran out how it might be brought to the top again by turning up the bottle. It is not at all improbable that these trifles would find a good market here, and that they would perhaps amuse the Emperor himself as much as the pieces of mechanism that we brought with us to *Pe-king*.

Before he left me the *Naa-san-tayen* assured me that he intended to write concerning me to the *Tsong-tou* and the *Hou-pou* of Canton, for which I expressed myself highly grateful. He is even in hopes, as he told me, of being *Hou-pou* at Canton himself the ensuing year, and I assured him that I sincerely wished him to fill that employ.

After more than an hour's conversation, he took leave in the most friendly manner, and I attended him as far as the inner door. This evening he sent a present of fruit and sweatmeats to the Ambassador and me.

7th. Nothing remarkable : we only began to make our arrangements with our travelling conductors as to our departure and mode of conveyance. It was at last resolved that his Excellency and I should perform that part of our journey that lay over land in palanquins ; the five gentlemen of our party, the mechanist, and *maitre d'hotel*, on horseback, and the rest of the suite in carts, with all the baggage, for the carriage of which no *Coulis* were to be got here.

As far as I have been able to observe, there are only three ways of transporting goods ; namely, by carts, by barrows, and on dromedaries.

Dromedaries are here very numerous ; but it did not appear to me that they carried so heavy burthens on their backs as the camels of Arabia and the western parts of India. I have also observed that their pace is very slow, so that their conductor can follow them with ease : we out-travelled them in our palanquins. It seems that this is the pace in which they go upon a journey. In walking their great arched neck is always pendant, consequently their head does not lean upon their humps ; and while upon the road they are constantly chewing the cud. At the lower part of their necks they

have some long hair, as fine as silk ; and in some this hair is very bushy. It is precisely the same as that which is so much valued in Europe in the manufactories of camlet, and which we export from Turkey. All the rest of the hair of the dromedary or camel is too short for working or spinning.

One thing which struck me was, that the sole of the dromedary's foot is tender all over, and to such a degree, that when it is stretched out, the inside resembles a kind of elastic cushion. Rugged or stony roads must then be extremely troublesome to these animals, since such roads seem to require a very hard substance. The manner in which the dromedary lies down is also somewhat singular, inasmuch as he supports himself on his fore knees, and does not suffer the lower part of his body to touch the ground. He has then his neck stretched out, and his head erect. I had no opportunity of making farther observations on this animal.

Our Chinese servants this day obtained permission to go into the city to buy whatever might be needful. They returned this evening, very sorry that this indulgence had been granted. Having been discovered to be strangers at *Peking*, the centinels in the streets put them into a guard-

guard-house. They did not fail to declare that they were part of the retinue of the Dutch Embassy, and that they were natives of Canton, begging at the same time that the *Lingua* might be sent for, to bear witness to the truth of what they advanced; but as the discovery of the truth did not enter into the calculation of these military knaves, they began to strip them, and accused them of selling opium. Unfortunately each of the servants had a few dollars prepared for his purchases; and that was exactly what these faithful guards were in search of. Chains were already prepared to conduct them to prison, which terrified them to such a degree, that although innocent they made a tender of money, in order to escape from the plunderers, who at last sold them their liberty for a dozen *piastres*. I intended to communicate these facts to the Mandarin, but my servant begged me not to do so, as their liberty had been obtained by means of a composition, which if known might give them, as well as others, a great deal of trouble. I therefore resolved to say nothing upon the subject; but here we see that even a Chinese is not in perfect safety in his own country, and to what a degree a private soldier may molest a man who does not belong to the place. What then should not we Europeans have had to dread, if leave

had been given us to walk about. At any rate we could not have moved a step in the streets without being escorted by a guard of soldiers, on account of the curiosity of the multitude crowding round us on all sides, as we experienced every day, even in the interior of the Imperial palaces. We have therefore reason to believe that it is from prudential motives that we are so closely guarded, in order to preserve us from a thousand affronts which might have been offered us by the dregs of the people. In what country indeed is it possible to controul the mob? Besides, as the Mandarins are responsible for our lives and for our satisfaction, it is still more easy to believe that so many precautions are dictated to them by their own interest.

8th. This morning at eleven o'clock the Ambassador and I set off for the country house of *Yuen-ming-yuen*. In passing through the city we met with a very remarkable funeral. It was that of a Mandarin of the first rank. The body was conducted out of *Pe-king* with a considerable procession and a great deal of pomp.

On arrival at one o'clock at *Yuen-ming-yuen*, we were conducted to an apartment where we had already been, and where we staid at least

two

two hours. In the mean time some fragments were brought from the Emperor's table on dishes of massy gold, which indicates that he is served in that metal. From this apartment we were taken to a tent, and an hour afterwards to the great Esplanade, in which the fireworks were usually displayed.

At four o'clock the Emperor came out of the building and seated himself in his arm chair in the niche. I had then an opportunity of seeing him walk some distance, and I was very much surprised to find that he was exceedingly upright, and stood in no need of support. When standing he appears younger and stronger than when in a sitting posture. His stature exceeds the common height.

His Majesty being seated, all the Envoys were presented to him, those of each nation going together: we were the third. After we had performed the salute of honour with our hats off, the Emperor, through the medium of the Prime Minister, desired the Ambassador to tell our Prince how we had found him on our arrival, the state in which we had left him, the manner in which we had been received and treated, and what we had seen in his palaces. His Excellency

returned thanks to the Emperor for all the favours conferred upon us, and expressed his wish that his reign, protracted to a distant period, might be attended by that happiness which good princes deserve. We then repeated the salute of honour, and returned to our seats.

The different Envoys having thus had a general audience of leave, a cup of bean milk was first presented to the Emperor, and afterwards handed round to all the guests.

A little table was afterwards prepared for us of pastry and sweetmeats, which rendered a dish of mutton served up at the same time a still more remarkable object than it would otherwise have been. Similar tables were set before the rest of the company. While we were taking our collation, wrestlers, musicians, and jugglers were busied in their ridiculous performances, to which we did not deign to pay the smallest attention, although the old Emperor was so much amused with them, that he ordered money to be distributed to these buffoons as a proof of his approbation.

At sun-set the fire-works began, which were almost similar to the last, and terminated likewise
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by a sham fight, which was perfectly well executed. The leaders of the court, who were stationed in the upper story, had also the pleasure of partaking of this festival.

The fire-works being over, his Imperial Majesty repaired to a habitation in another part of this delightful retreat, going in a sled over the ice. We followed him in a flat sled, passing under trees, along a noble serpentine canal. We alighted at a great distance from our point of departure, and proceeded on foot to an illuminated edifice, near which the Emperor was already seated. We were desired to sit down on cushions upon the ground.

Some players began an insipid piece of buffoonery, after some singers had chaunted verses, the subject of which seemed to me to be the praises of his Majesty, celebrated and honoured by all the nations of the earth; for I remarked that mention was made of the Dutch.

Having remained half an hour longer in this place, the Monarch retired. We were then reconducted to the canal, where we got into a sled, which conveyed us, by a circuitous route, to a gate, where we found our carts. There the

Naa-san-tayen, who had also accompanied us the whole of this evening, took leave of us. We stepped into our carriages to return to the city, and congratulated ourselves when we got back to our lodgings, at past nine o'clock, so tiresome and disagreeable had been the constant jolting of our vehicles.

The only recompense for the fatigue we suffered in this short journey was the sight we obtained of the above-mentioned noble canal, forming several meanders through a wood in uneven ground. Its banks are composed of rocks, which, being used instead of bricks or stones, have taken, under the hand of man, a form which they seem only to have received from that of nature. How great must be the pleasure of navigating, in the summer season, on this tranquil stream in a light yacht, under the pleasant shade of trees, which at this moment only exist to afflict the eye!

How happy were we to have seen this part of the Emperor's country seat, which to this day had remained unknown to us! Perhaps, indeed, we have not seen the twentieth part of the beauties contained in *Yuen-ming-yuen*; for I have been assured that its total circumference is little short of three hundred *li* (thirty leagues).

We remained in our hotel, whither our court conductor came to desire us to hold ourselves in readiness to go at seven o'clock to-morrow morning to the palace, where we are to receive the Emperor's letter for our Prince, and the last presents, because it is only then that our audience of leave will really take place,

Our correspondence with the Missionaries is now entirely open, by means of our Chinese domestics. We accordingly communicate with them daily; but we cannot indulge ourselves in the effusions, nor feel the pleasure resulting from the presence of those whom we are happy to see. We have reason, nevertheless, to be thankful for this imperfect enjoyment.

10th. Although ready to set off at a very early hour, we were not conducted to court till eleven o'clock. We passed an hour in one of the apartments of the west side, over the inner court, into which the south gate leads. The *Naa-san-tayen* joined us there, and took us to an outer court, through the south gate, at a small distance from which we were drawn up in a line. There the *Liepou-chong-tsu*, or Chief of the Tribunal of Ceremonies, an aged man, who wore an hexagonal oval button of a purple colour, came
to

to congratulate his Excellency and me on our being about to receive the last mark of the Emperor's favour.

We then performed, in obedience to the regular word of command given by a Mandarin in the train of the *Liehou*, the ceremony of prostration in honour of the Emperor, after which the last presents of the Emperor were delivered to us, consisting of the following articles :

For the Prince of Orange—Eighty rolls of silk, and two small vases of the stone called *yu-chi*.

For the Ambassador—Thirty-four rolls of silk, and a hundred and fifty *taels* of fine silver.

For me—Eight rolls of silk, and eighty *taels* of silver.

For the five gentlemen in the suite of the Embassy—Eight rolls of silk, and forty *taels* of silver each.

For the Mechanist, and the seventeen soldiers and servants—Four small rolls of *panche* (plain narrow silk) and fifteen *taels* of silver each.

Our salute of honour, by way of thanksgiving, having terminated the ceremony, we returned by the west gate, where we found our little carts waiting in the outer court: we consequently passed along the outside of the palace-walls.

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The Emperor's letter for our Prince has not yet been delivered to us, because it is not yet ready; but it will be sent to us to-morrow, or the day after.

In the afternoon, the *Naa-san-tayen* came to speak to us on business, and particularly to enquire what letters and effects we had brought for the Missionaries. We gave him exact information on both those points.

I took this opportunity to repeat my request to see my friend Grammont, as also for permission to go and examine the great bell. The *Naa-san-tayen* assured us that he would use his best endeavours with the *Voo-tchong-tang*; and when going away flattered us with hopes of seeing, at least, two of the Missionaries before our departure from *Pe-king*.

The presents intended for the two principal Ministers, and the *Naa-san-tayen*, were still in our possession. To-day, however, a kind of arrangement has been made for the acceptance of the principal articles, on condition of our taking a few trifles in return, in order to give the appearance of an exchange to this gift, which would be contrary to the Emperor's prohibition, forbidding

forbidding all the Mandarins to accept presents, under the penalties of forfeiting their employs and dignities. This affair was settled with the *Naa-san-tayen* to the satisfaction of both parties.

11th. The Mandarins of Canton came to concert measures with us for our journey. They took charge of the Emperor's presents to the Stadtholder, in order to have them carefully packed up, and to deliver them to us at Canton.

Our court conductor assured us, that his Majesty, while giving an audience of leave to the first of our Canton conductors, ordered him expressly to let us travel as might best suit our convenience, and with all the accommodations it might be possible to procure; to take care that a good reception be given us on our route, and that honours be paid us in the principal cities, suitable to the title of Ambassador; to let us see every thing curious, &c. &c. We may then hope that our journey back will be agreeable, especially, as among the Chinese, an Ambassador, or even a private individual, who has been admitted into the presence of the Emperor, always enjoys much more consideration than before. We have then more than one reason to think we shall be better treated, at the same time that
there

there will be no motive for accelerating our journey, its lasting a week or two, more or less, being a thing of no importance.

12th. The Prime Minister sent a Mandarin to take the letters addressed to the Missionaries. M. de Guignes, who was the depositary of them, hesitated at first to deliver them; but fearing lest the refusal might produce something unpleasant, he at last determined to give up all the packets, which were immediately carried to the palace, where we were assured the Missionaries were then waiting to receive them.

I again asked whether I should be permitted to see M. Grammont, and was told I should; but I am much afraid that there is a determination to prevent our seeing any Missionary. The Mandarins, from the highest to the lowest, must certainly be conscious of great culpability, or they would not think it necessary to carry distrust to such a length. It is easy also to see how great is the influence exercised by the regency of Canton over the first personages in the empire, since it even goes to the prevention of a communication between the Missionaries and us, which could not, however, be attended with any ill consequences.

13th. We

13th. We have been very busy in packing up our baggage, which will be sent off to-morrow, in order that by its being continually before us, we may never be obliged to wait for any thing.

I must mention here, as something extraordinary, that we have again ate this day of the sturgeon which his Majesty made us a present of on the 11th of January, the day after our arrival here. The frost has kept it perfectly sweet, without there having been occasion to employ a single grain of salt. We even expect to carry some away, to serve us on the road; but that portion we shall salt.

14th. Towards noon, M. Roux, a French Missionary, was introduced with a train of at least a dozen Mandarins of different classes. They came to receive the cases of wine, and other things that we had brought for the different Missionaries, as well as what we ourselves intended for Monsieurs Roux and Grammont. We were permitted to have half an hour's conversation with him, during which time every eye was upon the watch, to see that we put no paper into his hand, and that we communicated nothing to him on the part of any one else.

'This conversation was, however, a matter of supererogation; for during several days' past we had, by means of our servants, conveyed backward and forward every thing that by reason of its small bulk could be subtracted from the inquisition of the Chinese. Besides, the residence of the French Missionaries being only on the other side of the handsome bridge, which stands in our neighbourhood, our native servants went there daily with our letters, and brought back the answers.

The nature of M. Roux's visit convinced us still more strongly of the distrust with which we have inspired the Chinese. It serves also to make our departure more desirable, especially as we were informed by M. Roux, that M. Grammont had in vain solicited permission of the Prime Minister to join him in his visit. Being thus assured that there is no disposition to let us see any thing more, either the great bell, or the temples, in regard to which I had expressed some curiosity, we look forward to the day of our leaving *Pe-king* with pleasure.

After M. Roux had passed a full half-hour with us, the Mandarins began to press him to take the things he came for, and to retire with them.

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He was consequently obliged to leave us, though with great regret.

In the afternoon the Emperor's letter to the Stadtholder was at last brought. It was put upon a table in the great court-yard of the hotel, whither his Excellency and I went to perform the salute of honour. The letter was afterwards taken out of its bamboo case, and shewn to us. The whole is upon one page of a large sheet of coloured and shining Chinese paper, and is written in the Tartarian, Chinese, and Latin languages. A list was added to it of the presents made by the Emperor to the Prince, as well as of those which he has bestowed upon each individual of the Embassy. The Ambassador read the Latin letter and thought it very singular. As soon as he had done, the letter, enclosed in its yellow cover, was put into its case, and then a Mandarin took charge of it, in order to deliver it to us at Canton.

Shortly after this ceremony, our baggage was begun to be put into carts until night came, and interrupted the business. I observed that these carriages have also bar-wheels, instead of spokes, and a fixed axle round which the wheel turns. In that respect alone they differ from those I described

scribed on the 4th of January. They resemble them in every thing else, even to the harness.

Before I take leave of *Pe-king*, I think it incumbent on me to make a few observations on the usual construction of the Chinese houses in the north of the empire, as well as on the manner in which the Chinese warm their apartments.

In all China the houses are built upon the ground ; that is to say, without having any cellar under them. The apartments are paved with flat square bricks, a thing very agreeable in warm weather, but very little suitable to the severe season of the year.

To defend them from the piercing cold which they experience in the northern parts of the Empire, the Chinese have devised subterraneous furnaces, placed outside the houses in excavations made on purpose. Tubes go branching off from these furnaces in every direction, under the bricks of the floors, and under a kind of platforms or estrades on which the Chinese sleep. They even pass through the walls, which divide the different rooms, so that the heat diffused by these tubes produces in the apartments the temperature desired. The fire is kept up night and day in the

outer stove or furnace, without the smallest danger to the buildings, because a coat of bricks closely confines that destructive element, and opposes its disastrous effects. If the apartments be spacious and numerous, an increased number of stoves and tubes always insure the same result.

It cannot be denied that this is an invention honourable to Chinese industry ; and certainly it is no small advantage, in a severe climate, to enjoy in the midst of winter's cold an agreeable heat diffused through all the apartments. It is in those places especially, where these outer stoves are wanting, and where there is a necessity of having recourse to the brasiers of charcoal of which I have spoken elsewhere, that the value of this invention is the most sensibly felt.

The *Naa-san-tayen* came early in the evening to take leave of us, and wish us a pleasant journey. He renewed his assurance that he would recommend me particularly to the *Tsong-ton*, and the *Hou-pou* of Canton, and that his letters should precede our arrival there. He also said again; that perhaps he should be *Hou-pou* there himself the ensuing year, and that in that case he would afford special protection to the Dutch nation, with whose agents he should be happy to form a friendly

friendly connection. He took leave of us with remarkable affability, and with demonstrations of kindness which bespoke the consummate courtier. I attended him as far as the door of the street.

I have since learnt that from our hotel he went to examine one of the two pieces of mechanism, which is entirely repaired and put to rights by M. Petit Pierre; that he found the workmanship and the contrivance equally excellent. He expressed great satisfaction at one of these pieces being mended, because it would afford the means of judging of the merit and value of our presents.

M. Roux went also to inspect the same piece of mechanism in the afternoon, which gave the five gentlemen, whom curiosity had carried there, likewise an opportunity to converse for two hours with the Missionary. He was much struck with the beauty of the piece in question, and related that at the time of the delivery of our presents to the Emperor two very common things of the same kind, brought from Canton, had been put in the place of ours, by way of avoiding the necessity of telling his Majesty that they had been damaged on the road. He affirmed besides that it was the plan of the Mandarins to get the Prime Minister to

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present

present ours to the Emperor on some solemn occasion, without saying a word of their coming from the Dutch. The Mandarin, who was charged with the conveyance of the baggage from Canton, was indeed sharply reprimanded for his negligence by the Prime Minister ; but the excuse was, that all the blame was attributable to the bad package of our mechanist. By these means they deceive the Emperor, in whose name the *Voo-tchong-tang* may be said to govern and direct every thing as he pleases.

We also learned from M. Roux that it is very probable that if the Embassy had come directly from Europe or Batavia, we should have been permitted to communicate freely with the Missionaries ; but that, as we were all persons resident at Canton except the Ambassador, a misplaced policy had made the Mandarins refuse us that favour.

The same reason was particularly powerful in regard to M. Grammont, who was near three years at Canton, where I had concerns with him, which increased the apprehensions of the Mandarins. There is really something bordering upon stupidity in their fears. Is it not inconceivable that they have not been struck with the truth of
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the observation I made to one of them some time since; that having daily opportunities of making representations to the Emperor and Prime Minister, we should never think of recurring to Missionaries, with whose want of power we were but too well acquainted, supposing that we had any intentions of that kind, or any important thing to say.

We have had the pleasure of M. Roux's company a great part of the morning. I asked him for information concerning the European buildings in the Imperial country-house of *Yuen-ming-yuen*. He told us that the plan of them had been designed by Father Benôit, a French Missionary in quality of architect; and that they had been built under his direction. The drawings which I have of them are very exact, having been copied from engravings made by the Missionaries themselves after the plans of their fellow-priest.

M. Roux added, that the country-house of *Yuen-ming-yuen* contains thirty-six distinct habitations within its walls, at some distance from one another; that each of them has its dependencies, and the necessary accommodations for the Emperor and his suite, and that the European

edifices form one of thirty-six dwellings or divisions.

According to this account, of the authenticity of which I have not the smallest doubt, I have reason to believe that we have not seen the twentieth part of the beauties of this immense domain, to which no habitation of any Prince in Europe is comparable, and of which the cost must have amounted to a prodigious sum.

Our mechanist this day delivered the piece of mechanism entirely repaired into the hands of a Mandarin, and of M. Roux, whom he apprised of its construction, in order that the Chinese may not spoil it, as they were very near doing yesterday and to-day, by touching it while M. Petit Pierre was absent.

15th. Our baggage being all upon the carts, we parted with M. Roux with great regret, and quitted our hotel. The Ambassador and I took our carts as far as the gate of the city, where our palanquins were waiting for us. The gentlemen in the suite of the Embassy followed us on horseback.

It was half past three in the afternoon when we set off. As soon as we were without the gate of the palace walls, our driver turned down a street leading to the southward, keeping for some time close to the rampart. Thence we proceeded to narrower and more irregular streets, which took us a great way round, but at last brought us to the principal street adjoining to the gate called *Tchun-moun*, the very same by which we entered *Pe-king*, and which we now reached at twenty-five minutes after five.

In our way to the gate, I remarked on the east side the church an observatory of the Portuguese Missionaries, which overlook the houses. The church is a handsome building, with a roof in the form of a cross; and from a cross street I perceived a very arched door of stone making the entrance of the edifice, the construction of which is entirely European.

When I came to the suburbs of *Agauy-lau-tching*, outside of the gate of *Tchun-moun*, and consequently of the Tartarian city, my driver turned off in order to take a bye road, on one side of the main street, no doubt in order to avoid the crowd. This brought us to a little narrow street, and gave me an opportunity of convincing myself that the

lateral streets are all very narrow, very irregular, and very different from the principal ones, which stand in the direction of the four cardinal points of the compass,

I also saw in the suburbs large spaces entirely open; gardens behind the houses, and several places with mounts and rapid declivities, so that any one might have imagined himself in the midst of the country. Hence I am of opinion that these suburbs are not regularly built upon, unless in the streets which correspond with the gates of the city, all the intermediate parts being probably as naked as the space we passed through. I was very much surprised at it, for I supposed that suburbs, adjoining the Imperial residence, were entirely inhabited,

At half past four, we passed through the gate of the first city (the Chinese town): this gate is situated to the westward, and is called the gate of *Tjay-hing*. When we came to the paved road, which I mentioned at the time of our arrival at *Pe-king*, and were at about five minutes walk from the above gate, we found our palanquins waiting for us. We bade an eternal adieu to our elegant carriages, in order to get into those truly commodious vehicles, and continued our route over
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the pavement. The road is not perfectly straight, taking several turns more or less perceptible; but its principal direction is east-south-east, and west-south-west. It keeps it as far as the little city of *Fee-ching-sé*, where after we had passed the handsome stone bridge, we found the road turn off to the south-south-west. At seven o'clock we passed through that same town of *Fee-ching-sé*, and arrived an hour afterwards at *Chin-tcheou-tin*, a village of moderate size, where we stopped at a paltry inn, being under the necessity of passing the night there, as the late hour of our departure had made it impossible for us to reach the lodging prepared for us thirty *li* farther off.

Our supper was very indifferent. Not having my bed, I was obliged to lie down upon the floor—a very bad specimen of our journey back.

16th. We proceeded on our journey at half past seven this morning, and at three o'clock reached *Lian-hiang-chen*, where we ought to have arrived yesterday evening.

I saw on the road three elegant temples, with convents, one of which is a spacious building.

All

All of them are inclosed with walls in the form of ramparts, kept in excellent repair.

We set off at half past eleven, and after being three hours upon the road stopped at *Tan-tsin-y*, in order that our *Coulis* might take a repast. We then set off again, and at six o'clock reached the suburbs of *Tjo-tchou*, where tolerably good lodgings were prepared for us. In this part of our journey we saw four temples and convents of very neat appearance, one of which belongs to the sect of *Lamas*.

We also passed over the magnificent bridge which I mentioned on the 8th of January. Here, however, I must add, that at each extremity of it are large and handsome triumphal arches of wood with three passages, and having each an open hexagonal pavilion at its side. In these pavilions stand several large stones, bearing inscriptions in honour of the architect of the bridge, in the middle of which, and upon the north side is a dome of yellow varnished tiles, also covering a monumental stone. In front of the northern triumphal arch is another dome supported by four rows of stone pillars, each row consisting of four. On each side of the
north

north entrance of this place there stands on a stone pedestal an enormous lion of cast iron, painted of a greenish colour to imitate that of bronze.

During our afternoon's journey we were overtaken at three o'clock by a violent north wind, which raised clouds of dust so thick as to intercept the light of the sun. It was impossible to distinguish objects at twenty yards distance, and we were almost stifled in our palanquins. The fury of the wind soon abated a little, but all the rest of the night bore, nevertheless, a strong resemblance to a tempest. We found on a wall in one of the apartments of our inn a Malay inscription, written in Arabic characters, of which M. de Guignes took a copy on account of its singularity.

After a tolerable supper we passed a pretty good night.

17th. Having only sixty *li* to travel to-day, we did not set off till a quarter past nine. I remarked in the north-east part of the city two lofty towers standing close to each other, and exactly of the same kind. In twenty-five minutes we went from one end of the town to the other

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in a right line from north to south. Beyond the south gate are suburbs of considerable extent.

To the east of the road is a large and handsome temple standing by a convent. In the walls common, to both of them are three gates fronting the south, the middle one having three passages and being of enormous size. The front of these gates is a large square court, the sides of which are regularly planted with lofty trees, such as are not unfrequently seen round buildings of this sort.

A little further to the south we saw another temple, and a convent belonging to the *Lamas*, but less considerable in extent.

At half past eleven we came to another temple and another convent. The same thing occurred again at noon at the entrance of the village of *Fankoun*, where we halted half an hour to give our *Coulis* time to eat. Setting off afterwards we arrived at half past three at our lodgings without the walls of the little city of *Sin-ching-chen*, which were in the same public building where we were on the seventh of January at noon, and where we met with tolerable accommodations.

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By making further enquiry we found that the building in which we are lodged is a pagoda dedicated to Saint *Itching-cong*, who inhabits the front hall. We were very well treated here, and enjoyed a good supper and refreshing sleep.

The weather was very cold to-day, the wind blowing strong from the south-west, which again raised suffocating clouds of dust.

At a small distance north of the city, I observed in my way a tower constructed like that which I had seen on the 9th of January near the city of *Pe-king*; that is to say, that its lower part consists only of one story, while the upper consists of nine small ones, above which is a roof ending in a point.

Opposite our lodgings, and to the westward of a little river at present frozen, is a very handsome and very spacious town-house, with a garden belonging to it. In the front of the building is a large piece of ground, overshadowed on every side by lofty trees, which seems to be a place of exercise for the troops. The edifice and the garden are inclosed behind and on the sides by a wall; but the esplanade is only
protected

protected by a ditch or canal, with two bridges opposite the building.

During our short stay this morning in the village of *Fan-koun*, I had an opportunity of seeing a tinker execute what I believe is unknown in Europe. He mended and foldered frying-pans of cast iron that were cracked and full of holes, and restored them to their primitive state, so that they became as serviceable as ever. He even took so little pains to effect this, and succeeded so speedily as to excite my astonishment. It must indeed appear impossible to any one who has not been witness to the process.

All the apparatus of the workman consists in a little box sixteen inches long, six inches wide, and eighteen inches in depth, divided into two parts. The upper contains three drawers, with the necessary ingredients; in the lower is a bellows, which, when a fire is wanted, is adapted to a furnace eight inches long and four inches wide. The crucibles for melting the small pieces of iron intended to serve as folder are a little larger than the bowl of a common tobacco pipe, and of the same earth of which they are made in Europe; thus the whole business of foldering is executed.

The workman receives the melted matter out of the crucible upon a piece of wet paper, approaches it to one of the holes or cracks in the frying-pan, and applies it there, while his assistant smooths it over by scraping the surface, and afterwards rubs it with a bit of wet linen. The number of crucibles which have been deemed necessary are thus successively emptied in order to stop up all the holes with the melted iron, which consolidates and incorporates itself with the broken utensil, and which becomes as good as new.

The furnace which I saw was calculated to contain eight crucibles at a time, and while the fusion was going on was covered with a stone by way of increasing the intensity of the heat.

18th. Setting off this morning at nine o'clock, we reached at twelve the little city of *Pay-hau-se*, where the *Coulis* stopped to refresh. Proceeding on our journey we came at three o'clock to *Hiong-chen*, where we passed the night in a very indifferent *Conquans*.

During the greatest part of the evening our road lay along the banks of a river, which was still blocked up by the ice. We went ten *li* towards

towards the south, thirty *li* to the south-south-east, and then twenty *li* in a south-east direction. The wind, which was at north-west for a short time, blew with much violence, and incommoded us as well with dust as with the cold.

This evening our second conductor solicited us very earnestly to consent to travel one hundred and twenty *li* to-morrow, in order to arrive at an early hour at the city of *Ho-kin-fou*, where we are to receive an entertainment and some presents on the part of the Emperor. The Ambassador, after a little hesitation, acquiesced.

19th. We were on our way this morning at half past six. At nine o'clock the *Coulis* took their breakfast at *Tchou-hé-hau*, and at half past twelve we reached the city of *Yin-kion-chen*, without the walls of which we stopped for half an hour in a public-house, in order to take some refreshment. Having accomplished our purpose we set off again, and at a quarter past five came to the town of *Yi-li-hou*, where we passed the night very commodiously.

Our road, during the whole of this day, lay through a marshy country, and at some distance I perceived three or four lakes, which had been concealed

concealed from me by the darkness of the night when on my way to *Pe-king*.

I observed, near the city of *Yin-kion-chen*, three tombs, having each a triumphal arch of stone at their entrance; in the rest of the space between the gate and the grave stand in succession, and facing each other, two stone pillars, two sitting lions, two rams lying down, two horses saddled, and two statues of Mandarins. A little further on is a tomb overshadowed by a thick grove of cypresses.

At the entrance of *Chek-moun-kiou* we met with a monument composed of a solid block of white marble, about ten feet high by two feet and a half wide, and one foot thick, standing upon the back of a tortoise, also cut out of a single stone. An inscription is engraved upon the block.

These are the only things that had escaped me in going to *Pe-king*.

This morning our route was south, and then south-south-west till about noon, when it resumed its first direction. The wind, which was westerly and blew very cold, abated in the afternoon.

20th. At half past seven we quitted our lodging, and at a quarter past nine found ourselves in the city of *Ho-kien-fou*, where we were first conducted to a public edifice to get our breakfast.

At half past eleven we were taken to the Imperial court, a building constructed in all the capital cities of provinces, and even in some others that are not dignified with that title. The Emperor's tablet (*chapi*) which is placed upon an altar in the principal hall, receives the salute of honour at every new and full moon from all the Mandarins. A discharge of artillery and military music announced our passage ; first, before the troops that were drawn up in a line, and then in front of a long file of Mandarins. After these was the Governor of the Province and another great Mandarin who congratulated his Excellency and me on our arrival, and who conducted us to an outer hall to shew us the Emperor's presents and entertainment, and then to the great hall beyond it. There, with the two great Mandarins and our two first conductors, we performed the salute before the Emperor's *chap* with our heads covered. We then returned to the outer hall, where we were

desired

desired to sit down upon cushions, by little tables covered with sweetmeats and pastry.

As soon as we were seated a company of comedians began to perform upon a very neat theatre, erected on purpose opposite the hall. Several hot dishes, particularly roast and boiled meat, were afterwards served up, and cups of *Samson* were presented to us for our beverage. We were waited upon by Mandarins of the gold button. We tasted a variety of things, and after having remained till nearly half past twelve, we rose, took leave, and departed.

The presents consisted of four half rolls of silk, and four pieces of narrow flowered silk (*pelang*) for the Ambassador, and the same for me. Half as much of the same articles was given to each of the five gentlemen in the suite of the Embassy, and the rest of his retinue received a few pieces of plain *panche*. The whole of these gifts were put into a little box, of which one of the Mandarins took charge.

We passed through a very long street, lined on both sides with temporary shops, full of all sorts of merchandize, and having much resemblance

blance to an European fair. The city is very populous, although we perceived so many spots not built upon, that we had reason to think that scarcely a fourth of the space inclosed by the walls is occupied. And even in the part that is, a great many houses are in a ruinous condition, as I had before occasion to observe.

The two gates of the city through which we passed are both guarded externally by a semi-circular bastion, having two lateral entrances. This mode of construction is common to all the bastions that stand before the gates of the Chinese cities, so that the openings of the bastions and the gates of the town can never be enfiladed upon the same line. In the middle of these bastions four small iron guns are placed upon a heap of stones, with their muzzles turned towards the passage, and in this consists the whole of their defence, which we could not help considering as highly ridiculous.

Our road conducted us through several villages and hamlets. We also saw several pagodas in so ruinous a state that idols, which no doubt in former days were the objects of great veneration, were now exposed to the injuries of the air.

We

We arrived at a quarter past five at the city of *Hien-chen*, where lodgings for the night had been prepared for us with some degree of care. We found the ramparts of this place in still worse condition than when we passed through it before, and the houses make no better an appearance than those of the most miserable hamlet.

In these parts the farmers are already very busy in carrying manure upon the land intended for seed. In another place, and towards the afternoon I saw ground sown by means of a machine of very simple construction.

It consists of two sticks or pieces of wood about four feet long, the lower extremities of which are shod with a kind of iron wedge that serves to open the furrow. A little above is a square box placed between the two sticks, and tapering downwards in the shape of a funnel. Behind this is a plank put across for the purpose of covering up the furrow after the seed has fallen in. This instrument is put in motion by means of two wheels. Two Chinese draw it, while a third who guides with his two hands, first sows one, and then the other furrow. I had already conceived from the regularity with which I observed every thing growing in the fields that some ma-

chine, was employed for sowing, and I was not a little pleased at having an opportunity of seeing both the instrument and the manner in which it is used.

21st. We set off at eight o'clock with the intention of travelling eighty *li*. At nine we passed by the little city of *Chin-ka-kien*, which is destitute of ramparts, and the two gates of which are tumbling to ruins. Beyond the south gate is a stone bridge which appears to have stood for ages, but which is still in good condition. As yet I had not seen any of so singular a construction,

This bridge has four great semi-circular arches, and three smaller ones placed at the top of the intervals between them, so that the upper portion of the piers, which is in general a solid mass, here affords an additional passage upon an increase of the river. The water at such times finds a way through the supplementary arches as well as through the three principal ones, and as the action of the stream is thus diminished, there is no longer any danger of the bridge being carried away. I could not help praising this provident invention, and admiring the genius who conceived

ceived the idea and the utility resulting from its success.

At a quarter past eleven we arrived at *Fau-ching-ek*, another little city also without ramparts, but not without gates. We there made a scanty dinner; and setting off again at half past twelve arrived at a quarter past three in the suburbs of the city of *Fau-ching-chen*, where we passed a comfortable night.

From *Pe-king* hither all the crows we had met with were entirely black. However this afternoon I saw two with the upper part of their necks white. I had already been surprised in going towards the capital of China, at my never having seen any black crows in the southern provinces, and at not seeing any pied ones in the north.

Arriving at an early hour at *Fau-ching-chen*, I sent one of the servants of the Mandarins in search of such a sowing machine as I had seen yesterday. He brought me one immediately, but it was double, that is to say, so contrived as to sow two furrows at a time. I paid a dollar and a half for it, and mean to take it with me. It is, however, very different from that described

above, having no wheels, and being of a more complicated construction. This acquisition gives me a great deal of pleasure.

We set off at half past seven, and a little after eleven reached the suburbs of *King-tcheou*, where we made a very hasty dinner.

This city is remarkable for a very lofty octagonal tower of twelve stories, that I had not seen on my way to *Pe-king* by reason of the night. We passed through a street, in which stand three very handsome triumphal arches of stone. *King-tcheou* may also boast of ramparts kept in very good repair, and of a very lofty temple of three stories at a small distance from the tower. The houses are very mean, outside at least; for in China there is no judging of the inside, the handsomest palace seldom exhibiting any thing but four dead walls, except indeed the gate-way in the front. It is the same with regard to the houses, unless they be shops, in which case they are open to the street.

Setting off again at half past twelve, we reached in two hours the territory of the province of *Chan-tong*, in which the soldiers drew up in front

front of all the guard-houses upon the road as we were passing by.

I observed with astonishment in the province of *Tché-li*, where there are guard-houses at five *li* distance from one another, that they are almost all in bad condition, and many of them absolutely tumbling down. It seldom happened that we saw so many as three or four soldiers come out of them, which surprised me the more, as it was natural to think that in the province of which the Emperor makes his residence things would be better regulated than elsewhere. Here, however, the very contrary is the case.

The period of our days journey was *Té-tcheou*, where to-morrow we are to partake of an entertainment, and to receive presents on the part of his Imperial Majesty. A quarter of an hour before we arrived there we met with two triumphal arches. In the space intervening between them the road was lined with the garrison of the city, through the ranks of which we passed in our palanquins, and at each triumphal arch were saluted with three guns. The same was repeated when we came to the gates of the city. After having passed through several streets we came to our lodgings, which consist of two buildings contiguous

tiguous to each other, and are consequently both spacious and convenient.

The city is not large, but is surrounded by a strong wall. It appears to contain a number of good houses, as far at least as we could judge from their exterior. Its population is also considerable, but it can boast of nothing worth the attention of the traveller.

A short time before we entered the city we passed the river over a bridge of boats, and found its banks crowded with the same vessels that were there when we were on our way to *Pe-king*. The ice is, however, broken up, but many portions of it are floating down the stream.

Soon after our arrival at our lodgings the Governor of the city, a Mandarin of the blue transparent button, came to congratulate us on our return, and to enquire after our health. The same thing was done by another great Mandarin, the next in dignity to the Governor.

This evening we were joined by our third conductor, who, by his kindness and attention since our departure from *Pe-king*, has entirely recovered our good opinion, and even acquired
our

our friendship. He informed the Ambassador that there are from this town two roads, both of which lead to the place where we are to embark; one running along those parts of the province of *Chan-tong*, through which we had passed in coming, and the other going right across that province, and even saving us a whole days journey; he added that we might take the one most agreeable to his Excellency. For the sake of variety, that which crosses *Chan-tong* was preferred, and the distance regulated which we were to travel every day. The result is that our journey through that province will take up nine days. We shall then travel by land three days more in the province of *Kiang-nam*, as far as *Von-ka-sen*, at a short distance from which we shall find boats ready to receive us. Hence we promise ourselves a great deal of pleasure arising from a new country and new objects.

At half past nine o'clock this morning we were invited to go to the Imperial Court, situated at the angle of the south-east part of the city, near which, upon a sharp-pointed bastion, stand a pagoda and a small tower. The latter is only four stories high, but the stile of the architecture is pleasing.

We were received at the court with a repetition of the ceremonies performed at *Ho-kien-fou* on the 20th of this month. The hall and the theatre were here more ornamented than at the former place ; but the silk and other decorations were of a more ordinary kind.

At the moment when we had advanced to the front of the altar, in order to perform the ceremony of prostration, a letter was read to us from the Emperor to the Governor of the Province, importing, according to the translation of our *Lingua*, that his Majesty being very well pleased with the Dutch Embassy, as well as with the conduct of the Ambassador and those who accompanied him, and wishing to give them still farther proofs of his satisfaction, ordered the Governor of the Province of *Chan-tong* to entertain us in his name, to make us presents, and to treat us with the greatest respect.

When the whole was read we performed the salute of honour, keeping our hats on while paying the customary compliments and civilities to the different Mandarins. We were then desired to sit down upon cushions placed by the side of small tables covered with pastry and fruit, which
were

were removed to make room for two successive courses of boiled meat and vegetables.

As soon as we were seated the amusements began with tumblers, who made several leaps with remarkable address.

The Imperial presents were precisely the same both in nature and quality as those of *Hau-kien-fou*; and here also were given in charge to our Mandarins.

We rose from table at half past ten, and took leave of the Mandarins, after thanking them for the handsome reception they had given us. We then seated ourselves once more in our palanquins. On quitting the suburbs we were paid the same military honours as yesterday.

We proceeded along a small and wide road, which for the most part lay between fields of arable land of a better quality than that of the Province of *Tché-li*. We passed through no less than eleven villages and hamlets, and discovered at least double that number on the two sides of the road. At about half a league from the city of *Ping-yuen-chen*, is a noble hexagonal tower of seven stories, with projecting roofs at each. It
stands

stands in the midst of the fields, and is entirely insulated.

Still nearer the town is a tomb with a triumphal arch of stone, and figures similar to those that I described under the date of the 19th of this month; except that here two elephants stood next to the horses. The city is announced by delightful environs; trees of various kinds and magnitude; hamlets interspersed with groves of cedar and cypress, covering with their shade the last asylum of man: every thing concurred to render the prospect one of the most interesting that I had seen for a long time; particularly when gilded by the rays of the setting sun.

We have this day seen a greater number of orchards than in any other part of our journey.

On coming to the city of *Ping-yuen-chen*, we found the garrison under arms, and were saluted while passing by. When we reached the gate, we were conducted through the principal street, where formerly stood five triumphal arches of stone, of four of which no more than the pedestal and a few fragments now remain. From thence we were taken to the vicinity of the south gate, where we found excellent accommodations
and

and a good table in a very large building, opposite the door of which stands another magnificent triumphal arch of stone.

The Regent or Governor of the city came to pay his compliments to us, and made an apology for not treating us better. We replied to his courtesy in fuitable terms, and he retired after a short conversation.

This city, which forms a long square, is surrounded with handsome walls, but not more than one half of its internal space is built upon. To the westward are several edifices in tolerably good condition, in the number of which we remarked a very neat temple covered with green varnished tiles. It was by ascending to the top of the rampart and of the gate of the city, by means of a flight of brick steps, that I was enabled to discern those objects.

At the entrance of a narrow street near our lodgings is a triumphal arch of stone, similar to that which stands in front of our present abode, and which proves that it was once the residence of some distinguished persons, whose virtues have been deemed worthy of celebration.

In our very lodgings one of the halls contains several coffins inclosing dead bodies. Several of them bear marks of great antiquity, and yet they are still preserved. This is indeed a favourite custom among the Chinese of very elevated rank.

I was once in a pagoda at Honam, opposite Canton, in which coffins are likewise deposited in little rooms or separate spaces, and was assured that some of them were more than a century old.

There is a particular species of wood in China considered as unperishable; of this they make coffins, some of which cost more than a hundred and fifty Louis d'ors. The Chinese, let his pecuniary means be ever so small, procures while living, either for himself or his family, the best wood he can buy, and keeps it with great care at the entrance of his house till wanted for the last abode of a being who is no more, but whose pride has survived him.

23d. Almost the whole of this day our road took a south-east direction, and at a quarter past five in the evening we had travelled more than eighty *li* (eight leagues). We were carried by a body of *Coulis*, who have been with us ever since the seventeenth,

seventeenth, and whom we shall probably retain till we come to the place, where we are to take water. The consequence is that we can now proceed on our journey, and stop where we please, without suffering the inconveniences, and even the torments that were so liberally dispensed to us by those wretches in our way to *Pe-king*.

It is surprising however that the *Coulis* are able to undergo such fatigue. Each palanquin has three relays, or twelve bearers, and a guide. Four *Coulis* carry the palanquin for half an hour, while two others walk by the side of it. They have, it is true, a cart in which six men may sit and rest themselves; but one half of them are always actively employed.

This evening a visit was paid us by two provincial Mandarins, who both wear the dark blue button, and who are to accompany us as long as within their district. One of them is, however, of more elevated dignity than the other; the covering of his palanquin being of an olive green, and his train consisting of no less than twenty-seven persons on horseback. These two Mandarins passed about an hour with us. They smoked a pipe, drank a glass of Cape wine, and then left

us, apparently well-satisfied with the reception we had given them.

24th. We set off this morning at seven o'clock, and were saluted as we passed, both at the south and east gate. It was by the latter that we left the city, and at the extremity of the suburbs we were received by fresh discharges of artillery and other military honours. During this day and yesterday we have not passed a single guard-house without the soldiers turning out, and drawing up in a line.

At a quarter past twelve we reached the town of *Un-chan-kiou*, where we dined. While we were approaching it, the whole garrison turned out under arms, with colours flying, and did the same at the other end of the place when we left it.

At a quarter past five we came to the town of *Tsi-hochen-onfang*, the end of our day's journey, where we met with tolerable accommodations. This place makes a much better appearance outside than many cities, and is of considerable size. We have this day passed through, or close by, thirteen villages, and have perceived a still greater number at a small distance from the road.

This

This morning I had the curiosity to count the villages that I could see from my palanquin without change of posture, and found one and twenty in the space which my eye took in, and which might comprise about three fourths of the circle of the horizon. An hour after I began again, and a like number presented themselves to my view. Hence we may conclude that this part of the province is inhabited by more cultivators than the western districts, which we passed through in our way to *Pe-king*, and which appeared to us so wretchedly poor.

All the day we passed between corn fields, which in the summer season, when embellished by verdure, enamelled with flowers, and enriched with a yellow harvest, must compose a very delightful landscape.

In the afternoon we passed close to the city of *Yu-hing-chen*, which, from without, and from the spot whence we had a view of it, appeared to be a pretty large place, surrounded with good ramparts. On the outside of the east and south gates there are two magnificent temples, with other buildings belonging to them, standing within the same walls. Their roofs are covered

with green varnished tiles, and the whole is kept in very good repair.

25th. We proceeded on our journey at half past seven, and found the troops drawn up at the end of the town. At a quarter past nine we reached the city of *Tsi-ho-chen*, where we dined. The garrison here was also under arms. The city is surrounded with handsome walls, is handsomely built, and appears very populous. In front of the north gate is an Imperial pavilion, in which stands a stone monument, and a little farther on, a great pagoda in very good preservation.

- In the interior of the city, near the south gate, is also an Imperial pagoda, and a stone monument bearing an inscription.

Setting off at half past ten we passed a river beyond the gate, over which stands a very solid stone bridge, two hundred and seventy-five paces long. We began now to approach the mountains, which we saw for the first time since our departure from *Pe-king*.

In the afternoon we passed to the westward of a temple and an immense convent. To the south

South are three gates, with three passages leading through the centre one, and within the circuit of the walls stand no less than twenty buildings in very good repair. Before these gates is a large open square space, having on two sides a considerable building surrounded with a double row of lofty trees, making altogether a very handsome appearance.

At half past one we entered into a deep valley between two mountains, very narrow at its entrance, and skirted on both sides by steep rocks. We passed through five villages situated in this valley; and perceived to the westward a castle seated on the summit of one of the highest mountains.

To the eastward of the town of *Chang-tsin-chensang*; and upon the top of a mountain of considerable elevation, planted with cypress trees, stands a magnificent temple, inclosed with walls, and offering a very pleasing object to the eye.

Half an hour afterwards we again crossed a river by a bridge perfectly horizontal, through which are thirty-seven narrow passages for the water. All the stones with which it is built are of considerable dimensions, and are fastened to-

gether on every side with iron clamps, a thing I never observed elsewhere.

At a quarter past four we came to the village of *Chang-haya*, where we passed the night in a tolerable inn.

Our road for the most part took a south-east direction. The wind which blew violently from the south, while we were passing through the gorge of the mountains, raised a dust which incommoded us a good deal.

Before we arrived at those mountains we had passed, as on the preceding day, between fields of arable land, and had also met with a great number of villages.

We observed to-day a great number of orchards, particularly in the neighbourhood of habitations. Pears, which were here very large, were sold by the road side. Yesterday one was given me at my lodgings, which measured fourteen inches round, and taken lengthwise fifteen and a half. This kind of pear appears to be the only one known in the northern provinces. Its colour is a beautiful shining yellow. Before
it.

it is pared it seems hard, but when eaten, it is juicy, melting, and of an agreeable taste.

In Europe there are several sorts I should prefer to this, although it is the best I ever ate in China.

At *Pe-king* I never saw more than one sort of apple, which is of a very indifferent quality, mealy, of an insipid flavour, and more calculated to please the eye than the taste.

I remarked this morning in the city, while walking through the market-place, a considerable quantity of yellow carrots, of very extraordinary length and thickness, since they are much bigger than those of Hoorn in Holland. They appear to be very common. There were also turnips of prodigious size, the skin of which is of a crimson colour.

As to the houses I was surprised at their all having very lofty roofs covered with thatch or tiles, and not flat ones as in the western parts of the province of *Chan-tong*, and in that of *Tché-li*. I also observed that none of the castles so frequently met with in the provinces I have just mentioned are to be seen here.

• *Chang-haya*, the village where we stopped is very extensive and populous, and contains a number of shops of every kind. Its situation among the mountains gives it a very striking appearance.

The road appeared to be much frequented, and in the course of the day we met with a number of wheel-barrows carrying considerable loads. Favoured by a strong gale they made a very advantageous use of their sails, which as I had to-day an opportunity of observing, spare the barrow men a great deal of labour. This adjunct is then a thing of real utility.

26th. Setting off at seven o'clock in the morning we came in three hours after to the town of *Kong-chan-pu*, where we dined at a very good inn. Having staid an hour and a half in this place we resumed our journey, and at half past three reached the suburb of *Tay-ngan-tcheou*, where we are to sleep in very indifferent lodgings. Military honours were every where paid us.

We travelled to-day between mountains. Sometimes we were in a very level road, at others in a hollow or stony one, that took an east
by

by south direction. We passed, at some distance, from two towns called *Kong-chan-chion*, and *Long-chin-chen*, besides eleven villages and other places of less note.

The mountains were barren and rocky; not the smallest verdure was to be seen on them. The level space between them is nevertheless cultivated as much as the nature of the soil will permit.

We also passed over several bridges, and saw several triumphal arches built of stone, and like them wearing the appearance of great antiquity.

We perceived that the temperature of the air was much milder, and the heat of the sun more powerful. At four in the afternoon Fahrenheit's thermometer stood at sixty one degrees.

27th. We left our *conquan* at eight o'clock in the morning, and were conducted along the rampart without the town, which is very large and exceedingly populous. Near the gate on the north side is a great and very handsome pagoda, which we had the curiosity to visit yesterday in our afternoon's walk.

At

At a quarter past eleven we arrived, by a very level road, at the town called *Chui-ku-chau*. We stopped there to dinner. It was the nineteenth place we had passed through or seen in the course of the morning. Setting out again at twelve o'clock we had all the afternoon a very uneven road, being obliged to pass over the summit of four mountains, one of which was of very great elevation.

At a quarter past four we reached the town of *Yong-lau-chen*, the seventh place that had presented itself to our view this afternoon. This night we put up at a very indifferent *conquan*. The town appeared pretty large and tolerably well inhabited on the north side. We saw a magnificent temple and a convent, both standing within the same walls.

During the day our road has almost constantly taken a direction to the south-east by east, and east-south-east. Several fine prospects produced by the different positions of the mountains which present to us a variety of distant views, especially when we come to any rising ground; the continuation of fair weather and a warmer climate; every thing in short concurred to render our journey more agreeable and commodious. We could

now

now travel with pleasure as much as a hundred or a hundred and twenty *li* (ten or twelve leagues) a day. The Mandarins, our conductors, do every thing in their power to oblige us, and till this moment we have not had the smallest occasion for complaint, which is equally satisfactory to them and to us.

28th. Having a hundred and thirty *li* to go we set off this morning at half past six. Traveling for the first two hours along a handsome and straight road, and afterwards ascending several mountains, we came at a quarter past ten to the suburbs of *Sin-tay-chen*, where we were to dine.

We proceeded on our journey at half past eleven, being carried along the ramparts of this little city, which are kept in very good repair. During the afternoon we were constantly going up and down hill till a quarter past four, when we passed by the city of *Mong-in-chen*, where the road again became level and continued to be so till half past five, the time of our arrival at the town of *Kiang-cha-sin*. We staid there all the night, having travelled a hundred and forty *li* (fourteen leagues).

The city of *Mong-in-chen* is small, but it appears closely built. As the road passes along a mountain which commands it, we were able to see into the interior over the walls, which are solidly built and in good repair. In the centre of the town stands a large building two stories high, but the rest of the houses make a very indifferent appearance. The suburb contains as many houses as the town itself, and is full of shops.

Sin-tay-chen is also a small place, and the house where we alighted, though the largest in it, contains nothing remarkable.

In the space we travelled over the remainder of the day, there was a great deal of cultivated land, but fewer habitations than we had seen during the preceding ones. The inhabitants were every where busied in carrying manure on the ground.

The great quantity of millet that I saw in the markets in this province and that of Chili, and the general use made of it in most families, as I had occasion to observe in passing through the villages, make me imagine that this kind of grain, which does not require strong land, is here the general object of cultivation.

1st. March. Some backwardness in the payment of the *Coulis* occasioned a delay of our departure till three quarters after eight. The Mandarins were desirous of discharging them, but we refused to consent to it, as we were very well served by them till the present moment.

At a quarter past twelve we came to *Tou-chang-y*, a town of tolerable appearance. After having dined, we set off again at half past one on our way to the village of *Tsang-ti-tsi*, where after travelling a hundred *li*, we are obliged to put up for the night at a very sorry inn. Our road lay partly over a plain, and in part over very uneven ground. The last portion of the road passed over the summit of mountains of less elevation than those of yesterday. We could however distinguish the different chains of them to a very great distance.

We saw to-day more habitations than yesterday, and the number of cattle appeared also greater. During the last two or three days I have remarked several numerous flocks of sheep, goats, and hogs grazing in the fields.

Since we have taken the new road along which we are now travelling, I have had an opportunity

nity of observing that many women and several of the men are afflicted with large tumours in the neck, a thing which we had not seen elsewhere, and which seem to bespeak an endemical disease.

We have been going almost constantly towards the south-east. The weather was very cloudy in the morning and threatened rain; but in the afternoon a violent north wind cleared the sky, and favoured the wishes of a number of barrow men by swelling the sails of their terrestrial boats.

2d. Our departure this morning took place at half past six. Our road led us over mountains till nine o'clock, when we found ourselves at the foot of one of the most lofty of them, upon the summit of which stands a castle of considerable strength,

We had before passed over a stone bridge, with twenty-four narrow passages for the water; the stones of which it is constructed being connected with iron clamps in like manner as those of another bridge which I have already mentioned. The stream over which this bridge affords a passage is very small, this season being the driest of the year.

A little

A little after ten o'clock we found ourselves on a level road, the mountains having left us, and about a quarter of an hour afterwards we arrived at the village of *Poun-chan*, where we dined and set off again at half past eleven. Before three o'clock we reached *Sin-chong-chen*, where we are to sleep, and where we are very well accommodated in a large building in the city.

A little before our arrival at the last mentioned place, we met with a river of considerable width. The town which is pretty large is surrounded by a good rampart. We have travelled to-day ninety *li*, in a south by east direction.

The country grows more populous; for this afternoon I counted from my palanquin twenty four different places. I saw with pleasure in the vicinity of all the habitations a great number of orchards, cultivated as in Europe,

This evening, the Mandarin who is our second conductor for the province of *Chan-tong*, came to take leave of us; because as he finds himself approaching the limits of his province, it is his intention to return to-morrow. He told us that his companion had come to our lodgings yesterday with the same intention, and finding

was already gone, had set off that same day on his way home. We bade him adieu in the most affectionate manner, wishing him all manner of good fortune and rapid promotion. Born near *Hung-chan-chen*, in the province of *Quang-tong*, he entered into the Imperial corps of *Chiouais*, and upon leaving them, obtained the employ which he now holds. He appears desirous of permission to resign, in order that he may retire to his native place, where his mother resides.

The political system of the Chinese requires as a fundamental rule, that no Mandarin shall ever be invested with any authority in his native province. In consequence of this wise principle, every one of them is sent to a district where he is an entire stranger, and where he has no kind of connexions whatever.

We set off at seven o'clock in the morning. The south gate by which we left the city is covered externally by a double bastion of a semi-circular form. We had consequently three gates to pass before we were entirely without the walls. It is the only gate fortified in this manner that we have hitherto seen; for even those of *Pe-king* are only defended by a single bastion.

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At a quarter past ten we came to *Li-ca-chong*, where we dined, and left it an hour and a quarter afterwards. At a quarter past four we arrived at the village of *Sau-yi-hu*, where we put up at a forry inn, after a day's journey of a hundred *li*. Our road lay chiefly over a plain, in some parts sandy and full of stones. It took in general a south direction, and carried us through a number of different places.

Near *Li-ca-chong* we crossed a river, probably the same we passed yesterday near *Sin-cong-chen*. Its rapid stream, running to the south-east, is about two hundred and fifty yards wide. In the rainy season it must contain a prodigious body of water, and accordingly an embankment of considerable height has been thrown up on each side, in order to prevent its inundating the neighbouring country. There is a distance of at least three thousand toises between the two embankments.

I remarked, in one of them, a handsome stone sluice, which, when the river rises to a certain height, carries a fertilizing stream into the adjacent fields. The pavement and the sides of this sluice consist of large hewn stones. Its direction is serpentine, and its width about six feet.

It is shut by pieces of wood, one above another, let into a groove cut in the stones on both sides of the sluice. This sinuous shape proves that the architect perfectly understood how to weaken the rapidity of a stream, and was no stranger to the force of a body of water when propelled in a straight line.

In the afternoon we saw at a great distance to the westward, an insulated mountain with a castle on its summit, while to the eastward, at a great distance also, was a chain of mountains of little extent.

All the country we have this day travelled through consists of arable land, a great part of which having been sown in the autumn, begins already to be covered with a delightful verdure. In other places the husbandmen were ploughing, which gave us an opportunity of seeing the Chinese plough. Though very simple it is sufficient to turn up the strongest ground. I am resolved to buy one the first opportunity to carry out of the country with me, it being an excellent instrument for indifferent land. As to the harrow of the Chinese it seems to me to be inferior to ours because it has fewer teeth.

4th. We quitted our inn at three quarters past six, and an hour after passed at a little distance from the city of *Yeu-chin-gen* which is a small place, and of which the exterior makes a very mean appearance.

At a quarter past eleven we came to *Kiang-v'ho-fau-y*, a village where we stopped and refreshed. At twelve o'clock we quitted this last place of the province of *Chan-tong*, and at two *li* beyond passed its limits, and entered the province of *Kiang-nam*.

At a quarter past five we reached the village of *Tcheou-mou*, where we enjoyed a comfortable night's rest, after a journey of a hundred and twenty *li* along a road which for the most part took a south by east direction.

The river which I mentioned the two preceding days, and which we again passed yesterday evening at the entrance of the village of *Sau-y-pu*, over a stone bridge of five arches and Gothic construction, was running on the eastern side of us during the whole of this day. Our road was very sandy, very rugged, and very hilly in the province of *Kiang-nam*.

In the morning we met with orchards more extensive, and consisting of taller trees, than any we had hitherto seen in China.

At a league to the westward of *Tcheou-mou*, and upon the tabular summit of a hill, stands a large and noble convent, very agreeably situated at some distance from the road. The edifice and its walls within which are three little groves of cedar and cypress, are in good repair. In the afternoon we saw a great many wild geese and ducks.

5th. We proceeded on our journey at half after six, and about five hours after arrived at the village of *Sang-hau-ché*, where we were to dine. The road was very rugged till we came within a league of the village, when we crossed a river by a bridge of hewn stone, six hundred paces long and twenty feet broad, having at least seventy openings, intended for the passage of small vessels and covered over with flat stones, which rest simply upon pillars without arches.

North of the bridge stands a large imperial pavilion. It is square and has a double roof, but it is in such bad condition that its walls are in ruin, and its roof fallen in. In the midst of it is
a stone

a stone bearing an inscription relative to the architect of the bridge, but the stone itself is in such a ruinous state that cords have been tied round it to prevent it from falling down.

Having crossed the bridge we came to a dike or embankment, fully as handsome as those in Holland, and at least fifty feet thick at the top. The side towards the water descends with a great inclination, like the dikes made in the United Provinces within the last forty years; for it seems that it was not observed till then that the water has less action upon a surface much inclined, than upon a plane nearly perpendicular, and that by applying this principle to embankments they might almost always be preserved from accident. The Chinese, however, were aware of it from the first formation of their dams, and it appears also, that the keeping of them in good repair is here considered as a matter of the highest importance.

Half way between the bridge and the village of *Sang-hau-ché* stands, in the plain to the eastward, a large and magnificent convent, with edifices resembling temples, the whole surrounded with a wall, which denotes that a great deal of care is taken of it.

When we had nearly reached our place of abode, we found upon the edge of the embankment a very lofty pillar, with a cage on the top, containing the head of a criminal executed on the 14th of February, by order of the Emperor, for having committed a robbery and murder in the village. His crime was inscribed upon a board nailed to the pillar.

Nearly opposite *Sang-hau-ché*, which is situated in the plain by the side of the embankment, is the city of *Su-tsen-chen*, built upon the declivity of a high hill that stands on the bank of the *Hoang-hau*, or the Yellow River.

In consequence of some delay in the payment of our *Coulis*, it was two o'clock before we were able to proceed on our journey. Our road lay through cultivated plains, thickly interspersed with great and small villages and hamlets. We also saw near the road to the eastward a very handsome pagoda, consisting of ten distinct buildings, all in excellent repair. At half past five we came to the village of *In-hau che*, where we are to pass the night in a very comfortable house.

This place, which is pretty large, stands near the Yellow River, by the side of which we travelled

velled all the afternoon in a south-east direction, as I was enabled to perceive by the number of vessels that were sailing up and down. We went this day a hundred and ten *li*.

Within these few days past I have met with larger barrows than I ever saw before, and which, by the load they carried, might rather have been taken for carts. I observed that the load occupied a space seven feet long by five feet wide. The wheel is at least four feet in diameter, and the barrow is drawn by an ass. Two barrowmen accompany it, one before to guide the animal, the other behind to keep the barrow in equilibrium. Some of them are tilted over (but with mats) like our carts, in order to shelter the passengers.

This evening our second conductor came to settle the plan of to-morrow's journey. We determined to go ninety *li*, and consequently shall have only thirty to travel the following day to *Von-ca-sen*, which will give us time to get on board our vessels the same day.

6th. We set off this morning at seven o'clock, in the midst of a thick fog, which was not dispelled till noon. Half an hour before it cleared

away we reached *Tsong-ling-syé*, where we dined: We left it at one o'clock in order to get to the village, where, according to our plan, we were to pass the night, but the accommodations it afforded being very bad, the Ambassador suffered himself to be persuaded by the servants of the Mandarins to go as far as *Von-ca-sen*. We therefore proceeded on our journey at five o'clock. The wind blowing very strong, and the weather being exceedingly thick, our journey was very disagreeable. We were, however, fully indemnified, when, at a quarter past eight we found ourselves in very good and spacious lodgings, although in a small town.

Our day's journey was a hundred and twenty *li*, our road running almost always to the eastward, and in the direction of the Yellow River. Upon the embankment by the side of it we went, at two different times, a considerable distance. The top of it is still wider than that of the dike on which we were travelling yesterday, and is every where kept in the most perfect order.

The Yellow River is the greatest of all those of the Empire of China, and its inundations are the most formidable on account of the impetuosity of the stream. Double embankments have therefore been thrown up on each side in order

to prevent its ravages. The inner one is calculated for the ordinary rise of the water, and the outer one is meant to serve on extraordinary occasions. The superintendence of these dams is entrusted to the care of three *Tsong-tous*, between whom the whole extent is divided; each of them being bound to reside in a city adjacent to the portion submitted to his inspection. In consequence of their holding this office they take the title of *Hau-cong Tsong-tou*, which answers to that of Intendant of Dikes in Holland.

7th. The weather was severely cold. The wind, which had increased a good deal during the night, was followed by heavy rain, and in the morning we had a great deal of thunder and lightning. At noon the wind shifted to the north-west and the cold augmented. A hard shower of hail was superadded to the other meteorological phenomena, and was followed by large flakes of snow which fell for a full hour.

In the afternoon the weather cleared up, but it continued to freeze during the whole of the night. We were therefore obliged to stop all day at *Von-ca-sen*, for it would have been impossible to cross the river. Fortunately after having passed it, we shall have only four *li* to travel, in order to reach our vessels.

8th.

8th. The weather was fine and clear, but accompanied by a hard frost. The river, however, not being frozen, our baggage was conveyed across it in boats, and put on board the vessels. At eight o'clock in the morning Fahrenheit's thermometer stood at twenty-nine degrees, the wind being very sharp and piercing. At nine o'clock we passed the river and arrived at ten at the town of *Sin-can-fu*, where we found our vessels waiting for us, and immediately embarked,

They were very large yachts, divided into several spacious apartments, wherein we found ourselves both comfortably and agreeably situated. The Ambassador and I had each our yacht, and two others were assigned to the five gentlemen in the suite of the Embassy.

Our baggage being tardily conveyed on board, it was four o'clock before we were able to get away.

Sin-can-fu is a tolerably large place, situated on the banks of a river, and full of handsome shops, which bespeak a commercial place. It is also very populous.

When every thing was embarked we set off with a fair wind, which assisted the effect of the stream in carrying us down the river.

At

At six o'clock we passed the city of *Tsing-ho-chen*, a very extensive place, where there is an Imperial custom-house, and where a *Hou-hou* is resident. A bridge of boats is laid across the river, having a cable at one end, by means of which it is suffered to swing round with the stream when a passage is wanted for vessels, and is afterwards brought back from the bank, to which the current has drifted it, to the opposite shore, where it is again made fast by the cable. At the bridge the river is narrower than the *Amstel*, but is more frequented both by great and small vessels. It has on each side a solid dike, and from one end of the city to the other its banks are entirely faced with hewn stone.

At half past seven we were already opposite the town of *Houay-ngan-fou*, where we stopped in order that our sailors might be paid, and provisions be put on board for to-morrow. All the cities that lie in our route are bound to contribute their quota of these provisions.

It was eleven o'clock before we were able to set off. The city of *Houay-ngan-fou* appears very large and populous; there is more than one breach in its walls which are in a very ruinous state, and the public buildings that we had an opportunity

opportunity of seeing, seem not to be in much better condition.

On the western bank of the river, where there was a prodigious number of vessels, and fronting the city, is a large Imperial building with a stone monument standing under it. This edifice, which is now mouldering into ruins, must formerly have been very magnificent. It appears that the Chinese set little value upon their antiquities. The old things that do honour to their talents are in a manner abandoned to the destructive hand of time without their shewing any anxiety at their decay. Along the road we met with hundreds of those stones, intended to preserve the remembrance of particular events in a state which proves the total neglect to which they are condemned, and the injuries they have suffered from the inclemency of the air.

In the northern part of the city, and within the ramparts, stands a kind of octagonal tower, the five stories of which do not amount to an elevation of sixty feet, although the dimensions of its base are in proportion to double that height.

While we were stopping at *Houay-ngan-fou*, a great number of Imperial vessels passed by loaded with

with rice for *Pe-king*. These vessels, which are of considerable size, have two masts; one placed very far forward, and the other two-thirds of their length from the stern. Their lofty prow stands up almost vertically, and their bottom is flat, which gives them a square form, and renders them fit to carry considerable burdens.

The canal was to-day of the same width as yesterday, still running between two dikes or causeways, which in some places were entirely bordered with rushes, in order to give more strength to the dam, and to oppose the action of the water, which has a tendency to undermine the ground; an invention much resembling that of *Varech* in Holland.

This evening at nine o'clock we arrived off the city of *Pauin-chen*, where we stopped in order that our people might enjoy a night's rest, of which they are much in need, our vessels being now pulled on by the tracking-line. At sun-rise we set off again.

10th. I could distinguish very little of the city of *Pauin-chen*, which is, as I was told, very large, but destitute of commerce. To-day, as well as yesterday, the direction of the canal was

to the south, while villages were scattered here and there along its banks.

In the morning we got sight of a considerable lake, at no great distance to the westward. It is so large in some places that we could hardly perceive its western shore. It was covered with a great number of large two-masted fishing boats, lying two and two together in order to haul the net at the same time, as is practised at Macao and along the coast. The lake is separated from the canal upon which we are navigating by a single dike that is not fifty feet broad, although the water of the canal is at least eight feet above the level of the lake. Along the edge of the latter the embankment is faced with a wall, made in part of hewn stone and partly of brick. Some repairs were going on there at the time we passed by. On the canal side the dike is also strengthened, in the way I have already mentioned, by reeds stuck into it in rows, the intervals between which are filled with strata of argillaceous earth, laid one over the other almost to the very top of the embankment; the whole being afterwards covered with a coat of clay a foot thick.

The surface of the country on the east side of the canal is at least ten feet lower than that of
the

the water. It is excellent arable land, and for the most part fit for the cultivation of rice. A great number of villages and hamlets present themselves every moment to the eye, and afford a very pleasing prospect. In the eastern embankment, flood-gates have been placed wherever necessary. They are of hewn stone, and exactly similar to those which I mentioned on the third of this month. We saw several of this kind, both yesterday and to-day. At half past eleven we came abreast of the village of *Fan-tsany-san*, where we were obliged to stop, because the Mandarins had not furnished sufficient provisions for the servants and the crews, or rather because, according to custom, the domestics of the Mandarins had speculated upon our allowance, and appropriated a part of it to their own use. The best way of correcting them is the one we took, by stopping, and giving them to understand that we were determined not to be their dupes. A supplement of provisions was immediately furnished us, and we again got under way.

We navigated the whole of the day along the side of the lake, the stream being in our favour, but as the wind was contrary, and it blew fresh, our progress was very slow. The cold obliged

obliged us to make use of braziers to warm our apartments.

The manner of steering these vessels is very singular, but well suited to the nature of the passage they have to make. Six or eight men track them on, while four others walk along the dike, carrying two light wooden anchors, the cables of which are fastened to strong stancheons placed upon the decks. At the word given by the pilot, these anchors are dropped upon the ground, in order that the stem or stern of the vessel may be drawn towards the dike, according to the direction that it is wished she should take in her course, and thus to prevent her from being brought by the wind or the current with her broadside to the stream.

Their ropes of *rattan*, or, more properly speaking, of bamboo, are very serviceable, because they unite lightness and strength. Other cordage would be wanting in the first, and even in the second quality, when necessary to keep the vessel in the strength of the stream. The stancheons to which these ropes are made fast are the heaviest pieces of wood in the vessel, whose whole depth they penetrate. There is one on each side, both forward and aft.

The

The mast is composed of two pieces, which are united at their head, but which, being separated below from each other, are fixed in iron collars upon the two sides of the vessel, so that it may be brought down lengthwise upon the deck. There is at the same time at the foot of the mast another piece of wood, also composed of two bits likewise joined at their upper end, where they form a crutch, upon which is placed a tackle for swaying up or lowering down the mast; an operation by these means rendered extremely easy.

The rope by which the vessel is tracked is made of the bark of bamboo: it is not thicker than the little finger, and yet it is very strong, as well as very light. Of every production that grows in the vast extent of the Empire of China, there is undoubtedly none whose utility surpasses that of bamboo, which is employed on every occasion, even as an article of food. Scarcely any thing is to be found in China, either upon land or water, in the composition of which bamboo does not enter, or to the utility of which it does not conduce. From the most valuable articles which serve to adorn the apartments of the Prince, down to the smallest tool handled by the meanest mechanic, bamboo is sure to find a place. Houses are entirely constructed of it, as well as all the

furniture they contain. In navigation, it is bamboo which furnishes every thing from the line that serves to track the smallest skiff, to the cable, that constitutes the security of the largest vessel.

This tree, which is propagated with astonishing abundance, and grows with remarkable rapidity when planted in a favourable soil, deserves to be considered as one of the greatest benefits that nature has conferred on the territory of China: the Chinese accordingly shew their gratitude by bringing it more and more into use. I doubt whether the vegetable kingdom in any part of the world affords a substance of such general utility as the bamboo, the qualities of which place it far above my panygeric.

We stopped a part of the night, in order to give rest to our sailors.

Setting off at day-break, we passed, in the course of the morning, one of the extremities of the lake. A high wind which rose in the afternoon compelled us to stop.

The country, like that which we had seen during the preceding day, is entirely covered with hamlets and villages, and is in a high state of cultivation.

tivation. The wind having fallen, we got under way again at midnight.

This morning at two o'clock we passed the city of *Kau-yon-tcheou*, which we were prevented from seeing by the darkness of the night. At sun-rise we came to *Van-tsu*, a tolerably large place; and at half past seven reached the suburbs of *Yang-tcheou-fou*, and stopped mid-way before we came to the city, in the interval between the suburbs and the convent of *Pe-ning-fau-tsi*.

I took this opportunity of going to see the convent. The Chief Priest and six of the bonzes came out to pay me their respects, and conducted me through the middle door to the first temple. At my entrance about twenty bonzes ranged in two lines chanted a hymn. As I found myself near the altar, on which was the Emperor's chap, I performed before it the ceremony of adoration. I went afterwards to see the second and third buildings of the temple, and was afterwards shewn a stone, with an inscription written in the present Emperor's own hand, and placed under a canopy in a separate compartment. I visited all the rest of the convent, which serves as a habitation for at least sixty bonzes.

When I had seen every thing, the Chief Priest conducted me to the refectory, where he desired me to sit down at table and partake of some fruit and tea. I accepted his invitation, and staid there a quarter of an hour. The name of this priest is *Bonay-key*: he is fifty-five years old, but his appearance indicates a more advanced time of life. I thanked him on taking leave for the gracious reception he had given me, and made him a present for the convent. He attended me to the outside of the gate.

The Gods of these pagodas are, 1. *Quang-ty*; 2. *Oyhait-ho*; 3. *Goun-yam*; 4. *Tfont-nay*; and, 5. *Mant-su*. On both sides of the first story are the four usual figures of the guardians of temples, known by the name of *Ci-tay-tyem-cong*. On the second are also seen, on the two sides, eighteen images of ancient gods, called *Sapatlohong*. These eighteen idols, and the five first mentioned, are all richly gilt, and half as large again as life.

Without the walls of the convent, by the side of the river, is a magnificent triumphal arch of wood, with three passages, and with pedestals of white marble, some of which were overturned by the inundation of last year. It appears

as if they meant to leave them in their present state.

Almost opposite, on the west side of the river, stands an Imperial monument under an hexagonal dome, which must formerly have been a handsome edifice, but which is now beginning to moulder away.

Half an hour before we reached the suburbs of *Yang-tcheou-fou*, we also saw two other Imperial Edifices, containing monuments. One is a pavilion with a triple roof, and the other an open hexagonal dome, supported by columns. Both of them are beginning to decay, which is a truly afflicting sight, considering the noble appearance they still make.

At one o'clock we set off again, and for forty-five minutes continued to pass along the walls of *Yang-tcheou-fou*. It appeared a very large place. Hundreds of ships, yachts, and boats lined the shore, and the crowd of people assembled on the two banks was innumerable.

At some distance below the city we passed an octagonal tower of seven stories, which were

not separated from one another by any balcony or projection.

The *Hou-pou* of Canton, by whom his Excellency was complimented on board the Siam, having at present the chief superintendence of the Imperial magazines of salt of *Yang-tcheou-fou*, the Ambassador and I dispatched our Interpreter to pay our compliments to him. He was so pleased with this, that in his turn he sent us one of the first Mandarins of his suite, commissioned to present his best wishes for our happiness, to offer us a considerable present of sheep and other provisions, and to express his regret at his not being able to wait on us in person, and wish us a good journey to Canton.

We there learnt that the *Naa-san-tayen*, our conducting Mandarin at *Pé-king*, has obtained an eminent post, and that he has set off for his residence. He is called *Tsick-tsau-fou*; that is to say, *Chief Director of the Manufacture of Raw Silk in the Provinces of Tché-kiang and Kiang-nam*, residing at *Hang-tcheou-fou*. He consequently will not come as *Hou-pou* to Canton, his present place being superior to that employ.

In our way down the canal we saw several more pagodas, convents, and other public buildings belonging to the city of *Yang-tcheou-fou*.

At half past four we perceived to the west of us a magnificent temple dedicated to *Quang-ty*, with a convent by the side of it. These edifices are covered with green tiles, and kept in excellent repair.

A little beyond, at a place where the river divides into two branches, we came to a noble Imperial palace, surrounded by several lodges for the princes, and an octagonal tower, having on its top a great bar or rod of bronze, surrounded by circles or hoops, and terminating in a large ball of copper, the whole richly gilt. From the upper part of the rod, chains are brought down to the eight points of the roof, corresponding with the eight angles of the tower, to which eight little bells are attached. These ornaments produce a most beautiful effect. The tower is of the same size at top as at bottom, its walls being exactly vertical.

By the side of this tower, is a temple standing under the shade of old and tufted trees. Other trees planted round the whole of the building, add to the beauty of the scene.—The tower being

situated opposite the canal, is seen from a very great distance

The principal entrance to this place is through three magnificent triumphal arches of stone, one of which stands in the front, and the other two on the sides of a great fore-court.

Every thing in this place announces the care taken of it by the bonzes, to whose trust it has been committed by the Emperor. The name of this summer palace, which is about fifteen hundred toises in circuit, is *Cau-ming-tsi*. It is pleasantly situated between two canals, and fronting a third, and is said to be eleven hundred and sixty years old, having been built in the reign of the Emperor *Yong-cong*.

At about five hundred yards from the principal entrance, and close to the water side, is a noble flight of stairs leading to the river; and opposite these stairs is an hexagonal dome supported by six pillars, in the midst of which is a stone bearing a long inscription.

Opposite to the building, and east of the canal, stands a convent, occupied by a number of bonzes.

This

This evening at seven o'clock we stopped at thirty *li* beyond the place I have just described, opposite another summer palace called *Ong-uun*, which our conductors offered to shew us. We mean to-morrow to avail ourselves of their kindness; for this evening it is too late.

Among the crowds of curious spectators who stared at us to-day with eager eyes, the females were not the least numerous. We remarked a great difference between their demeanour and that of the women of *Chang-tong*. The female sex is here infinitely fairer, and of a more ruddy complexion. In the course of the day we remarked many pretty women, and particularly admired the family of a great Mandarin, which passed by us in three large yachts. The charming women they contained stood at the windows in such a way as to see and be seen equally well. Three or four of them were perfect beauties. We may then safely say that we are still more unfortunate than Tantalus, since to his torments our inflamed imagination added, in a delusive dream, the punishment of the audacious Ixion.

13th. We went on shore at an early hour in the morning to visit the country house which I mentioned

tioned yesterday. The Emperor not having, inhabited it for these twelve years past, it is much neglected ; but if his Majesty were to testify the smallest desire to return to it, a fortnight would suffice to put every thing in order.

Even in its present state, this place is rendered worthy of attention by the variety of its edifices, by the diversity of the ground interspersed with rocks, by its pavilions, its lakes, its bridges, &c. Every thing is disposed according to a system in which art seems to hide herself in the midst of the irregularities of nature ; while the studied confusion of trees, fruit, flowers, and brambles compose a scene that seems due to chance alone. Already the birds enlivened the groves by their songs, and enriched the verdure with their plumage. Voluptuous summer, when thou hast spread thy charms over the country, what supreme delight must be tasted in this enchanting place.

No, it is not possible to give a faithful description of a Chinese villa. Every thing is intermingled, and seems on the point of being confounded ; but the triumph of genius is to prevent the smallest disorder that might hurt the eye. Every instant a new combination affords a new variety,

so much the more agreeable and striking, as it has been the less possible to foresee it; the spectator's surprise being constantly kept up, because every moment produces a new scene. Perhaps plans and drawings might give an exact idea of their composition; but what plan can shew the order of that which is only perfect because destitute of all order? What drawing can produce the effect of things which seem so discordant; and how is it possible to introduce into it that life which the different objects borrow from one another?—Our charming walk lasted an hour and a half.

From the dike we had an opportunity of seeing the adjacent country. The high lands, which are almost on a level with the embankment, are covered with a light tinge of green, already produced by the corn with which the fields have been sown, while the low lands are preparing for the late harvest of rice. The soil appears rich and fertile.

The great number of villages, hamlets, and habitations, have the double effect of enriching the landscape, and of bringing to the mind the idea of prosperity and abundance. It was also easy to perceive from the crowd of people who flocked to see us, that the inhabitants
are

are strangers to poverty. We were now, indeed, travelling through the richest parts of the Empire, while in our way to *Pe-king* we only crossed the least important districts of *Chang-tong* and *Tche-li*. *Kiang-nam*, *Tche-kiang*, and *Fo-king*, are the three principal provinces of China, because they produce raw silk, the stuff called nankin, and the different kinds of tea. When we shall have seen the two former, we may flatter ourselves with having had a sight of every thing that is the most worthy of attention in China.

As I have mentioned these provinces, I cannot refrain from communicating to my reader the following observations, which they suggest.

White raw silk is principally a production of the north of *Tché-kiang*, though erroneously designated by the name of *Nam-king*. The south parts only of *Kiang-nam* produce a small quantity.

The stuff called *Nam-king*, which is manufactured at a great distance from the place of that name, in the district of *Fong-kiang-fou*, situated in the south-east of the province of *Kiang-nam*, and upon the sea-shore, is made of a brown kind of cotton, which it seems can only be grown in that quarter. The colour of *Nam-king* is then
natural,

natural, and not subject to fade. As the greater part of the inhabitants of Europe and other countries are in the persuasion that the colour of the stuff in question is given it by a dye, I am happy to have it in my power to rectify their error.

The opinion that I combat was the cause of an order being sent from Europe a few years ago to dye the pieces of *Nam-king* of a deeper colour, because of late they were grown paler. The true reason of that change is not known: it was as follows:

Shortly after the Americans began to trade with China, the demand encreased to nearly double the quantity it was possible to furnish. To supply this deficiency, the manufacturers mixed common white cotton with the brown; this gave it a pale cast, which was immediately remarked, and for this lighter kind no purchaser could be found, till the other was exhausted.

As the consumption is grown less during the last three years, the mixture of cotton is no longer necessary; and *Nam-king* is become what it was before. By keeping them two or three
years,

years, it even appears that they have the property of growing darker. This kind of stuff must be acknowledged to be the strongest yet known. Many persons have found that clothes made of it will last three or four years, although for ever in the wash. This it is that makes them the favourite wear for breeches and waistcoats both in Europe and America. The white *Nam-king* is of the same quality, and is made of white cotton as good as the brown, and which also grows in *Kiang-nam*.

Besides the above-mentioned stuffs, a great number of others are made in China, either of cotton, or different kinds of flax : among others, an immense quantity of callico, made of the cotton of Surat and Bengal, of which the English bring hither annually from forty to seventy thousand bales, which are almost entirely employed by the province of *Quang-tong*. Hence we may conceive what an enormous quantity of different kinds of stuff is manufactured and consumed in this Empire.

We have been obliged to stop to-day, because that part of the canal to which we are going on the other side of the *Kiang*, is blocked up by an immense

immense number of Imperial boats laden with rice. We must then wait till a great part of them arrive here, and leave us room to pass.

In the afternoon we have seen more than fifty pass, for the most part so large, that they were capable of carrying more than three hundred thousand weight of rice, although, to my great astonishment, they do not contain even a third of that quantity. From *Tsong-tchou*, fifty *li* from *Peking*, the rice is carried over land to the capital.

The canal on which we now are, and in which we have been navigating ever since we left the city of *Houay-ngan-fou*, is cut through a space of more than a thousand *li*, in order to abridge the route of these vessels, although they only make one voyage *per* year. I have been assured that the Emperor has nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine vessels of this kind, from forty-five to a hundred feet long, and from twenty-two to twenty-five feet wide. Their crews, upon an average, consist of twenty men each. The captains and pilots live on board with their wives and families, as is the case on board the vessels of *Cologne*, in our own country. I remarked several very pretty women among them, and
others

others who carried their attention to their persons so far as to wear paint.

In these vessels, which are flat and square, the load is put at the bottom, and the upper part is laid out in cabins for the crew. A deck runs from one end to the other, and in the sides are ports or windows to give light to the apartments. The captain has the stern of the vessel for his accommodation, and over him the pilot has his cabin. All the fore part is allotted to the sailors. It is natural to suppose that all these people lead a very easy life, being in the service and in the pay of the Emperor, and always at home, without any dread of encountering hard fatigue.

It is impossible to refrain from observing that economy is here of no account in the conveyance of rice. In other countries these vessels would be more heavily laden; or else, if that increase of burthen would prevent their passing every where, on account of the shallowness of the water, smaller vessels would be built, which might be navigated by fewer men; and two voyages might be made annually instead of one.

It is evident that the Emperor requires two hundred thousand men for the conveyance of
rice;

rice; and these men, as well as their families, are kept at the expence of the state. The quantity of rice sent annually to *Pe-king*, is more than seven hundred and fifty millions of pounds (French); a quantity truly astonishing. It is with this rice that the greater part of those who serve in the army are paid, as well as those who are attached to the court. The whole of the above enormous quantity does not exceed what is wanted for that purpose.

The greater part of the inhabitants of *Chan-tong*, *Tcheli*, and the more western provinces, do not make use of rice for their nourishment, which is composed of millet, and other productions of the earth, such as peas, &c.

All the provinces in which rice is cultivated are bound to deliver their contingent, or agricultural tithe, in the vicinity of *Kiang-nam*, where it is shipped on board of the Imperial vessels. The province of *Quang-tong* is the only one exempt from this tribute, probably on account of the great number of troops it maintains, to whom rice is furnished for their subsistence.

It is in *Kiang-nam*, and principally in the district of *Sou-tcheou-fou*, that all the vessels destined

for the conveyance of rice are built. Many of them are prettily painted, and ornamented with carve-work, and gilding. They have large sails hoisted upon their two masts.

In the afternoon a vessel passed us having ten Coreans on board in their way to *Pe-king*, whence they will be sent into their own country. They were shipwrecked in a storm upon the coast of China. I was listening to a relation of that event, when the Coreans landed upon the dike. I went upon deck to see them, and was much surprised to find that as soon as they saw me, they stretched out their hands, as if they knew me ; ran to a small boat, and came alongside of my yacht ; but we were utterly unable to understand one another. They then appeared to discover their mistake, and were still more hurt when one of our Mandarins ordered them to retire, and to proceed on their journey. I presume that some of them had seen, or known some of the Dutch at Japan, whither the Coreans make a voyage every year, and that they took me for one of their old acquaintance.

This evening a strong north wind has sprung up, and the weather is very cloudy.

14th. The rice-vessels hindered us again to-day from continuing our journey.

15th. We set off at the break of day; but with the intention of not going farther than to one *li* on this side of the *Kiang*, which is here exceedingly wide. We are to pass it; but its surface being much agitated by a fresh breeze from the north-west, we are prevented from doing so, and must wait a more favourable moment. A heavy rain at the same time prevents us from going ashore to take a walk.

Having this morning seen a pretty large vessel go by, laden with the bones of animals, I was desirous of knowing for what purpose they were intended; and was told that they are to be burnt, and that the cinders are to be put upon the ground sown with rice, when the plant is about a foot high, and before the water is let into the fields. It is affirmed that this practice renders the land very fertile, which indeed cannot be doubted, since bones contain a great deal of the saline and oily principles. It is well known, besides, that all kinds of ashes make excellent manure.

I have seen lime spread in the same manner, upon the land that grows rice between Canton

and Macao ; but it is when the plant is two feet high, and after the grounds have been inundated.

16th. A gentle rain has continued to fall all this day. The rice vessels still obstructing our passage, we shall stay another day here. It is very lucky, while thus detained, that we are so well lodged.

I observed in the last eighty or a hundred *li* that we have travelled, that we frequently met with great heaps of reeds piled up along the dike. This led me to ask if that flexible shrub grew hereabout ; and I was told that immense quantities shoot up in the neighbourhood of lakes and morasses at no great distance to the westward. Hence it seems that nature has taken care to place the reed in places where it is wanted to consolidate the dikes.

17th. At the break of day we set off in order to quit the canal, and enter the *Kiang*, in point of extent the second river in the Empire, and at that place very wide. It ran down very slowly at the time we entered it, no doubt because its stream was checked by the flood-tide. The banks of the river were level, and thickly planted with trees ; but at some distance to the south,
and

and south-west we saw a great many mountains, which stretched away to the eastward, and approached the river in that direction.

Shortly after our departure, we passed the city of *Qua-tcheou*, situated to the northward. It is surrounded with very extensive walls, which in several places, however, shew marks of decay. The embankment stands exactly between the city and the river.

Half a league beyond, we coasted along a very lofty island, composed of rocks, and situated near the southern bank. The west side of it comes sloping down, but the opposite one is almost perpendicular. This island, called *Kiang-tsang-tsi*, was chosen by one of the Emperors for a country retirement; and several edifices were accordingly erected upon it, which when seen from the westward, afford a very agreeable prospect, and have all the appearance of a small town. All the buildings on that side stand on the declivity of the rock, and in a manner upon one another. They are constructed of brick; and the roofs are of green and yellow varnished tiles. Some of them are, however, covered with the common red kind.

We perceived, on the summit of the rock several domes, and to the north, a handsome tower in good repair, and similar to that of *Cau-ming-tsi*. There are buildings wherever its declivity permits any to stand ; and as it is perpendicular on the east side, the handsome buildings that front that way, which are the principal Imperial edifices, are constructed upon a level spot at the foot of the rock. The landing-place being to the north, a flight of broad stone steps has been placed there, coming down close to the water-side. A balustrade, also of stone, intended to prevent accidents, extends along the side of the road, which itself runs round the whole of the island, and passes over vaulted channels, that serve to carry off the rain. In other places, where breaches in the rock interrupted the road, the chasms have been filled up with masonry, in order to render it level and commodious. Lastly, to give still more security to passengers, another balustrade borders the top of the rock, to the eastward, in the part where the steep descent begins. Several magnificent buildings stand upon the summit.

On the eastern side, the river has washed up earth, and formed the flat beach which I have mentioned above, and on which gardens have
been

been made, planted with shrubs and flowers. Their pleasing appearance enlivens the magnificent prospect afforded by the edifices in front of which they are situated. The island appears very populous, and the outside of the buildings bespeaks the hand of care.

Upon the upper part of the rock are a great many forest trees, standing between the buildings and overlooking the roofs. The whole composition gives this place the appearance of one of those landscapes in which the painter has assembled all the objects most pleasing to the eye. I sketched two drawings of it, one representing the eastern part, the other the western, with the intention of having them finished by the painter I employ at Canton.

About three *li* farther eastward than this island begin the suburbs of *Ching-kiang-fou*, built among rocks by the water-side.

At a small distance from the road, upon the summit of a mountain, stand a temple and a convent, which must afford a pleasing view when seen from the island of *Kiang-tsang-fu*.

While abreast of these suburbs, we entered into a canal, which is about two hundred toises long, and which is separated from the river by a lofty and handsome embankment bordered with reeds, and communicating with the ditch dug round the city. In this place the passage being only the width of two vessels, we were obliged to haul in our yacht by means of the capstan, between the side of the canal and the rice vessels which lined the opposite bank. Having gone some distance along this canal, we passed through a sluice of hewn stone of dimensions scarcely exceeding the breadth of a rice vessel.

It would seem that in China they have no idea of flood-gates; for all those I have seen are closed by planks, in the way I have already mentioned. These planks are disposed like the beams in front of the sluices in Holland.

We waited in this canal or sluice for the rise of the tide, which detained us till half past two in the afternoon. We then proceeded on our journey, being tracked by a dozen men along the side of this narrow canal, which was constantly blocked up by the rice-carriers. After having travelled for some time in this manner, we arrived

at

at the north-west bastion of the city, where several flags were flying upon the bastion ; while a great number of soldiers stood in the embrasures sounding conchs in the place of trumpets. This was the first time that I had ever heard a Chinese blow one of these shells. It is well known that they are used as a warlike instrument in the islands of the South Sea.

On the outside of the bastion is a very lofty bridge of hewn stone, of a single semicircular arch. I was astonished at the bad repair of this bridge, considering its constant utility, and the crowds of people that pass over it.

We continued for a great while longer to follow the ramparts of the city, which must consequently be a place of great extent. It is inhabited both by Tartars and Chinese. When we came to the south-west end of it, we again found flags, soldiers, and conchs upon the bastion. Beyond it is a bridge similar to that at the north-west end of the town, and quite as much neglected. Shortly after we passed through a sluice of the same kind as that which we had met with in the morning,

At

At the end of the southern suburbs are two triumphal arches of stone, while upon a hill at a little distance stands an hexagonal tower in very good condition. It is seven stories high, has a long spire upon the top of it, and is plainly distinguishable from the canal.

A little way beyond the latter stands a large convent, with a temple, a great variety of other buildings, and a flight of stairs of hewn stone, leading from it down to the water-side. The whole appeared to be kept in excellent order.

On the outside of the city the ground grew uneven, and a little beyond it the mountains began to make their appearance.

In passing along the canal I observed a number of Chinese in small boats employed in deepening it, by means of an iron machine, about a foot long. It consists of two spoons or ladles, fitting close to each other, and opening and shutting by means of two long handles of bamboo, like a pair of tongs. With this machine they bring up the mud or clay from the bottom, and when the boat contains two barrow fulls, its load is thrown out upon the shore. Economy does not seem to be at all consulted in this operation.

The

The number of spectators of both sexes who crowded to see us go by was inconceivable. It was night before we had passed all the rice barges, and seven o'clock before we stopped to take our repast; after which we continued our journey during the whole of the night.

18th. At three o'clock in the morning we reached a village extending a great distance upon the top of the dike and alongside of the canal as far as a lofty bridge of stones, under which we passed. At half past seven we came to the city of *Tang-yang-chen*, where we were detained two hours, while changing trackers and taking provisions on board.

Setting off again at half past nine, we ranged round three sides of the city, keeping close to the ramparts, and passed under three lofty stone bridges which stand near three gates of the city, and of which the arches describe a semicircle.

The space inclosed within the walls is considerable; but it is to be presumed that the whole surface is not built upon. The suburbs made no appearance, nor was there any thing remarkable, unless the great number of inhabitants.

During

During the morning we passed by several sluices of hewn stone cut through the dike, and all in such a ruinous condition as to be unserviceable. I was much surprised to see things of so great importance in such disorder, while the stones which had been detached by the action of the water, would suffice to repair them. This neglect is no doubt attributable to the Mandarins, who appropriate the money that ought to be employed in repairs to their own use.

At the end of the south-west suburbs, and in a place named *Chéle* is a superb convent, temple, and other edifices equally magnificent. A little beyond is a lofty stone bridge, after which we came to another convent called *Hauy-hau-tsi*, a still larger and more beautiful building than the last; and near the temple, which is consecrated to the God *Quangty*, is a noble octagonal tower of seven stories, and of the same construction as that of *Cau-ming-tsi*. This tower standing near the canal I was the better able to distinguish its point and spire.

I then perceived that it was made of some sort of cast metal. The Chinese assured me that it is a particular kind of very pure and very valuable iron; but that the ball at the end is of copper.

The

The iron rod, as well as I could judge, is twenty feet long, and is consequently of no inconsiderable weight. It is fixed in a base or conical socket, also very long, which immediately above the roof contracts to a size little more than equal to that of the rod itself, to which it serves as a support, and to the length and weight of which it is adapted. Round the rod and one above another, are placed seven hoops or rings, the middle one of which is the largest, while the others decrease in diameter, in proportion as they are removed from it towards the extremities. All the seven are confined by cross pieces of iron proceeding from the rod. Over all these hoops, and almost at the end of the rod, is a plate in the form of a star, from each of the eight points of which hangs a little bell and a chain that descends to each of the eight angles of the roof. Below these angles larger bells are suspended, besides some that hang to the middle of each chain. Finally, the rod is terminated by a large ball of metal gilt. This manner of ornamenting the top of towers renders them very conspicuous, and gives them a most magnificent appearance.

This convent has a separate building belonging to it, standing by its side, and formerly inhabited by a Christian, a native of the east, named *Kiam-long*.

long-citay-ouang, whose family came originally from *Tai-kiam-cok*, and who was canonised by the Chinese after his death. His image is worshipped here, as well as in several pagodas.

This convent and tower are situated fronting the canal. They are seen from a great distance, and even from the city of *Tang-yang-chen*, presenting a very noble object to the eye. The canal describes a semicircle round these buildings; and when opposite the south-side of them resumes a straight direction, by means of which the traveller continues to enjoy a view of the tower for a long time.

At this part of the canal we met with a repetition of the obstructions occasioned by the rice ships bound to *Pe-king*, which blocked up one half of the channel.

The road being now clear of the crowds that had followed our yacht from the city, I landed, in order to take a walk upon the embankment by the side of the canal, and to get a view of the neighbouring country. The prospect is delightful on all sides, and the appearance of the country is that of a well-cultivated garden, being every where flat, and sown with corn, which be-
gins

gins already to shew itself above the surface. The level of the land is at least ten feet above the surface of the canal, and intersected by large canals and ditches full of water. The ground, which is of an argillacious nature, appears very fertile and of easy cultivation. The corn here has a thick stalk, and large and numerous leaves, which are a sufficient proof of the goodness of the soil.

I observed that in some fields, and in particular spots, the corn was sown in little furrows crossing each other at right angles; in others the seed was set in a right line by means of a drill (*femair*); and lastly, there were some places, but a very few, which appeared to have been sown by the hand, as with us, and in general in narrow beds, with little paths between them, as in the kitchen-gardens of Holland. All these diversified plantations cheer the eye, and the whole is as free from weeds as our pleasure-gardens.

As far as the eye could reach the whole country was crowded with farms and habitations; and signs of abundance and prosperity were every where visible. The houses were all built of bricks and covered with tiles. There seemed however to be a scarcity of cattle; for
during

during my walk, which lasted an hour and a half, I only saw a single cow.

It is easily perceivable here that the canal is the work of art, not only because it runs in a straight line, but also because its banks have been raised by the earth taken out of it till they are at least twenty feet above the level of the water. The top of these embankments is barely of the width necessary for a path. Towards the fields the slope is sown with corn almost all the way up.

The peasantry here are a good looking race, and are very well clad.

To the eastward the distant view is bounded by mountains situated towards the sea coast, all the rest is a plain as far as the north-west, where the hilly country that surrounds *Nam-king* contracts the horizon.

In no part of the world does the traveller meet with prospects similar to those which every part of this country affords.

In the afternoon we saw several brick-kilns placed along the top of the embankment.

At

At half past three we were abreast of *Li-fang*, a pretty large place, which, owing to the number of its shops, and the good condition of its houses, made a very pleasing appearance. There we passed first through a stone sluice, with two openings, separated in the middle by a very strong mound of hewn stone, and afterwards under a stone bridge of great elevation, and the best of all those we had met with for two days past.

Not far from *Li-fang* is a small pagoda, kept in very good repair. We stopped at six o'clock to take our repast, and continued our voyage afterwards during the whole of the night.

19th. At three o'clock in the morning we came to the city of *Chang-tcheou-fou*, and it was six before we reached the extremity of the suburbs. This may serve to give some idea of the length of the town. The cold was so severe during the last night that the fields, trees, every thing in short was covered with a white frost.

South of the city the canal increased to double its former width. The earth produced by its excavation, and in general thrown upon its banks, has in this part been carried away, probably in

order to be employed for some particular purpose, or perhaps, as it is of an argillaceous nature, it may have been made into bricks for some public buildings.

The banks are here higher than the adjacent country, nor did we see so many farms as yesterday; but villages and hamlets of good appearance, with houses built of stone and covered with tiles are more frequent. At seven o'clock I counted thirty-one villages or other places within the circle taken in by my eye, and several of the number were of considerable magnitude.

The fields in this part of our route lay lower than those we saw yesterday. The water of the ditches and trenches has a free communication with the principal canal by means of several navigable canals which branch off on either side.

At eight o'clock we passed by *Tchi-tsi-yen*, which occupies both sides of the canal, and which has all the appearance of a little city. Two ditches dug to the eastward and westward communicate here with the canal, and over each of them is a lofty stone bridge in very good condition, while a third bridge stands across the canal itself, with a passage, but no arch. The facing

facing of the piers is of hewn stones, placed perpendicularly one upon another, to the height of about twenty feet, with planks laid over them.

The direction of the canal made by human labour from the city of *Tchun-con-fou* is nearly in a right line from south-east to north-west, except near the city of *Tang-yang-chen*, where it makes a deflexion, because no doubt that city existed before the digging of the canal, and a small stream or natural river rendered an artificial channel an unnecessary work.

It is evident that this canal was not cut till after the epoch when the imperial residence was removed from *Nam-king* (which signifies the *South Palace*) to *Pe-king* (the *North Palace*), and when it was certain that the Emperor had abandoned his former abode. It is, then, to be presumed that the canal was dug four hundred years back, since *Pe-king* became the capital of the Chinese Empire four hundred and twenty-five years ago.

As the country is flourishing, the temples are numerous, and kept in better order than in the arid regions of the west through which we passed

before. The number of bonzes settled here proves that they are under no apprehensions as to a subsistence.

At a quarter past nine we passed by the village of *Quon-li-tchan*, standing on the opposite sides of the canal. It is a moderately large place, and very populous, as was proved incontrovertibly by the crowds of curious spectators with which both banks were lined. *Tchi-tsi-yen* and *Quon-li-tchan* contain triumphal arches of stone, the rude workmanship of which bespeaks their antiquity. In the first of these places there is one, and two in the village, including that which stands within the walls of an old pagoda, no doubt in honour of the saint who is worshipped there.

In the morning we passed by a convent and a temple, dedicated to the goddess *Coun-yam*, with buildings belonging to them, kept in very good repair. In a smaller temple, standing by the side of the former, is the statue of the Christian saint *Kiam-lang-citay-ouang*, whom I mentioned yesterday. As we were going by I got a sight of the statue, which is colossal and entirely gilt.

Half an hour afterwards we came to *Loo-sa-tchen*, a very large place skirting both sides of the canal.

canal. At no great distance from it is a great pagoda, dedicated to *Sam-coun-thong*, and two ancient triumphal arches of stone.

This morning we saw a chain of mountains at a great distance to the north-east. My telescope enabled me to distinguish two castles built on two of the highest parts of the ridge.

At three in the afternoon we had an insulated mountain, called *Y-tchun-chan*, standing to the westward of us at the distance of four or five *li*. Upon its summit are two pagodas, which, notwithstanding their immense height at which they stand, and the difficulty of approach, appeared to me, when I examined them with my telescope, to be kept in very good repair. The foot of the mountain, which forms a declivity of ten or twelve *li* long, is covered with hundreds of houses, standing detached from one another, and all coated with plaster, the whiteness of which, contrasting with the green of the mountain, gives them a very striking appearance. In a hollow in the mountain itself stands a habitation entirely overshadowed with trees, another marks the middle of the ascent, and between that and the summit a third seems to indicate three-fourths of the total elevation. All these situations appear agreeable.

South-east of this mountain is another much lower, having on its summit a convent and a temple; and by the side of them an octagonal temple, constructed like that of *Cau-ming-tsi*, except that instead of the metal spire and its ornaments it has nothing on the top of it but a large ball. This convent is called *Houay-tchun*. At some distance beyond, and between these two mountains is a handsome country-house, known for a thousand years by the name of *Ngok-si-fau-uun-tsi*, which was that of its original owner, a Mandarin of very high rank, whose virtue and unshaken fidelity could not save him from decapitation. Accused before the Emperor *Long-can-tsong*, he was condemned to death. The calumny being shortly after discovered, the body of the unfortunate Minister of State was interred by order of the same Emperor with all imaginable pomp, and a magnificent monument was erected over his grave. The monarch gave him besides the title of *Saint*, and conferred honours upon his son, at the same time that his perfidious accusers were punished with death. This magnificent tomb is in the province of *Tche-kiang*, near the city of *Hang-tcheou-fou*, where we shall probably have an opportunity of seeing it.

At

At four o'clock we reached the suburbs of *You-si-chen*, in the neighbourhood of which we saw at least a dozen pagodas. Five of them are close to the town, and are at the same time very near to one another. One of them stands upon a little island situated in the middle of the canal, which here grows wider, and even appears to be a branch of a river. In the suburbs is a convent of nuns or female bonzes, as also a large and very beautiful triumphal arch standing between two houses in a court or little empty space.

It is impossible to conceive the number of people that crowded to get a sight of us, some on shore and others in little boats, by which we were entirely surrounded.

The suburbs are intersected by several ditches. The houses of which they are composed are so many shops, filled for the most part with pottery of all kinds and qualities, such as urns, vases, pots, tiles, &c. It appears that these articles are manufactured in the environs. There is also a brick-ground and a place intended for the repair of vessels. At half past four we came to the gate of the city, and made a stop there, that being the place where our sailors were to be paid.

According to the information I was able to obtain, the city of *You-si-chen* is a large place, well built, neat, and full of inhabitants. Of this last circumstance we were well assured by the multitude that surrounded us.

At seven o'clock, every thing being arranged, our tracking line was stretched anew, and towed us on without intermission during the rest of the night.

Before it grew dark I observed to the south of the city a very noble and lofty tower, also resembling that of *Cau-ming-tsi*.

At eight o'clock the masters of our vessels had orders to stop till to-morrow morning. Our first conductor is gone to *Sou tcheou-fou*, in order to arrange things for our reception with the governor of that city, where an Imperial entertainment is to be given us, and where it is intended to shew us the curiosities of the place. It is probable that we shall arrive there to-morrow.

20th. At break of day the tracking line again put the yacht in motion, and we continued our course along the canal, which still keeps a south-east direction. In general the country is
more

more uneven than yesterday, owing to a number of hills and mounts, indicating graves. The villages are less numerous, but there are more small cuts and ditches communicating with the great canal. Trees were in such abundance as often to conceal distant objects from our sight.

At nine o'clock we came to the town of *Mong-ting*, a pretty large place. Two hours and a half afterwards we came to *Sou-tcheou-huyé-quan*, a vast and populous place, where there is a ferry, and a *Hou-pou's* hotel, standing in the middle of the town upon the bank of the canal, and producing a very good effect.

Having passed this place we perceived, at a little distance to the westward, a chain of mountains, which seemed to run in the same direction as the canal beyond the city of *Sou-tcheou-fou*.

In the morning several convents and temples, the two handsomest of which stand exactly at the extremity of *Sou-tcheou-huyé-quan*, engaged our attention. I perceived some edifices by the side of a very lofty tower, on the top of a mountain called *Ling-on-chan*, at a great distance to the south-east, and was assured that they made part of a summer palace built there by one of the Emperors

perors while the Imperial residence was still in this province.

To the south-east also, and likewise at a distance, stand a tower and a convent upon a mountain called *Chang-on-chan*.

Eight *li* beyond *Sou-tcheou-Mye-quan*, another narrow canal branches off from that on which we are travelling to the westward, and is only separated from it by a quay about six feet wide, which had formerly a facing of hewn stone on each side, and which is now in very bad condition in several parts, without any attention appearing to be paid to it.

Nobody was able to tell me what was the motive for building this quay, the construction of which must have cost a great deal of money, and which appears to me perfectly useless, since stone bridges have been erected at convenient distances to facilitate the communication between the two canals. As to myself I was utterly unable to conjecture with what view such a work could have been undertaken.

At half past twelve we passed by the graves of two persons of distinction. Near the tombs, and
by

by the side of the path that leads to them, are placed five pair of statues similar to those which I have already mentioned; that is to say, two lions sitting, two rams lying down, then two horses, two elephants, and two Mandarins standing. Tombs are very numerous in this place, and for the most part stand under small clumps of cedar and cypresses.

At one o'clock we left, at a certain distance from us to the eastward, *Sou-tcheou-hou-yau-chan*, built upon a hill. In the centre of it is a handsome octagonal tower, seven stories high, an idea of which may be formed from that of *Cau-ming-tsi*. Buildings placed one above another give to this spot so striking a resemblance to the west side of the little island of *Kiang-tchang-tsi*, which I mentioned on the 17th of this month, that a description of one may serve for the other; for here also the charming environs present a most delightful picture to the eye.

At two o'clock we landed at *Sou-tcheou-cau-pan-kiou*, a pretty large and very populous place. So many aqueducts and canals are here seen, that it may be said to stand in the midst of the water; that of the principal ditches washing the foundations

foundations of the houses, which are all of hewn stone.

We there passed under three capital bridges built of stone. Yesterday and to-day we met with thirty others of similar construction, which we either left on one side of us, or through which we passed.

Sou-tcheou-rau-pau-kiou contains several temples and convents in good condition, as well as three triumphal arches of stone. It was past three o'clock before we reached the further end of the town. An immense multitude of both sexes was assembled all along our road, and the houses were filled from top to bottom with people crowding on one another to get a sight of us, which procured us in our turn the pleasure of seeing the pretty faces of several belles. Most of them were painted, which appears here to be so prevalent a custom, that it even obtains among children of three or four years old. The white in particular is so glaring, that it is no exaggeration to say that a face covered with it may be distinguished at the distance of a hundred yards. A complexion of this kind is so unlike that of nature, that it seems more calculated to disgust than to please.

The

The rouge used in China is in general better than that of Europe. A woman whose skin is tolerably fair and smooth, and who is not in the habit of laying on white, might with this rouge imitate the fresh colour of youth, without its being possible for the action of heat or cold to discover the artifice, even to the most penetrating eye; nor would the habitual use of it in this moderate way have any bad effect upon the skin. It is in this manner that all cosmetics ought to be used, in order that these secret arts, intended to make women appear more agreeable and fascinating in the eyes of their admirers, may not be betrayed by a ridiculous affectation; and that this practice may not destroy the advantages of a smooth and soft skin. We might then consent to forgive the fair an artifice which would be no longer pernicious, and which would find its excuse in the desire of increasing the passion of a lover, or of moving the indifferent heart.

At four o'clock we passed by the village of *Houang-ton-fang*, where there are two stone bridges, one of them being of three arches and having a pavilion in the middle, intended, no doubt, to enable the traveller to rest himself, and the inhabitant of the town to enjoy the fresh air.

In this village a trade is carried on in brown earthen vessels, which are seen piled up in the form of very lofty pyramids in the front of the shops.

We were obliged to turn off on one side in order to go from *Sou-tcheou-cau-pau-kiou* to the village of *Houang-ton-fang*, because the usual canal from this first place till within a short distance of the city of *Sou-tcheou-fou*, is entirely obstructed by rice vessels.

At five o'clock we reached the entrance of the suburbs of *Sou-tcheou-fou*, where we passed under a bridge of three arches, of a construction equally noble and elegant. It would be impossible to build a handsomer, even of marble. Each pier stands upon a massive square of a single stone, somewhat longer than the breadth of the bridge, which appeared to me to be eighteen feet in the clear, and on both sides of which is a handsome stone balustrade. The admirable workmanship of this bridge gives it a very agreeable appearance. The piers of the middle arch are not more than two feet and a half thick at the bottom; and in every respect it would do honour to the most able architect in Europe. A quarter of an hour afterwards we came to another stone-bridge,

bridge similar to the former, but of only a single arch. Opposite was the place appointed for our vessels to stop before a large quay, upon which, before our arrival, a strong guard of soldiers was already posted. Their tents were pitched along the quay, in order to prevent the curiosity of the people from being troublesome to us. This precaution, indeed, was very necessary, as without it our vessels would have been sunk by the weight of those that would have crowded on board.

Soon after our arrival our first conductor sent the *Lingua* to the Ambassador and me, to inform us that to-morrow morning at ten o'clock the ceremonial would take place in the city, and that palanquins would be sent for our conveyance. We were consequently requested to hold ourselves in readiness, as well as the gentlemen in the suite of the Embassy who are to accompany us.

21st. At nine o'clock in the morning the Mandarins came to us to beg us to make our entry into the city. We repaired there accordingly in our palanquins, as well as the gentlemen in our suite. We were carried by four *Coulis*, and they by only two.

We

We passed through several streets well paved, but narrow, and full of shops of little consequence. Curiosity had every where assembled prodigious crowds, and if care had not been taken to plant centinels at the top of the cross streets, we most assuredly should not have reached the place of our destination. We were desired to alight at a house near the place they were pleased to call the Imperial court. About a quarter of an hour afterwards a messenger was sent to conduct us to that edifice, before which the troops were drawn up in a line. We were immediately conducted to the hall containing his Imperial Majesty's *chapel*, opposite which we performed the usual ceremony of prostration. We then paid our respects to the *On-tcha-tsu* and governor of the town. (The *Fou-yuen*, who generally resides here, is absent.) They told us that the Emperor had been very well satisfied with our Embassy, and found us persons of so much sincerity, that he had given orders to prepare an entertainment for us, to make us presents, and to treat us with all possible respect; orders with which they were very happy to comply.

The Mandarins then begged us to seat ourselves upon cushions to see a play acted, which was immediately ordered to begin. Scarcely had we
set

set down, when a little table was set before each of us, covered with fruits and delicacies of all sorts. These were afterwards removed to make room for dishes of hot meat, dressed in the Chinese manner, which we did not touch, because our cooks were preparing us a repast.

The actors were dressed as magnificently as any we had seen, and played *extempore*, merely to amuse us, and without any settled plan. It was past twelve when we rose in order to take our dinner in another apartment. The *On-tcha-fu* had retired, but the Governor came and joined us. His Excellency begged him, through the medium of our Interpreter, to favour us with a sight of the public buildings, and whatever other curiosities the city might contain. He answered that there was little worth seeing, but that he would comply with our request as soon as we should have dined. It is a custom among the Chinese, as well as the other nations of the East, to depreciate every thing belonging to themselves, and to speak of it as something very common, at the same time that they lavish undeserved praise upon all that is shewn them by foreigners. We had heard so much said of *Sou-tcheou-fou*, which is a place of great celebrity, that we considered the Governor's answer as mere words of course, and

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during the whole of our repast were taken up with nothing but the idea of the interesting things we were about to see. Our dinner being over, we seated ourselves again in our palanquins.

After having passed through several streets of the city, we were carried a great way off to a small convent and a pagoda, with a garden belonging to it, in which a mount has been thrown up, in imitation of a rock. The temple dedicated to the goddesses *Coun-yam* was little deserving of our attention, and all the rest was not worth the trouble of looking at. Half an hour was more than sufficient to examine this *beautiful* edifice. We were afterwards requested to take tea; but we thanked the bonzes for their obliging offer, telling them that it was our intention to visit some other curiosities.

It was then proposed to shew us another temple; but the Ambassador, hearing that it was inferior to the former, refused to go. The Mandarins, who were our conductors, appeared embarrassed, as if they did not know whither to conduct us. I had some things written down in a list, which I submitted to their inspection; but they found an objection to every one of them:
some-

sometimes it was the distance, sometimes the disorder the place was at present in, and sometimes the badness of the road. Thus, every thing considered, we had nothing better to do than to return to our yachts, without having obtained any gratification of our curiosity; and this was what we resolved to do.

The height of the artificial mount of which I have spoken, having enabled me to overlook a great part of the city, I observed several spots of cultivated ground in the north-east quarter. The circumference of this city is estimated at thirty-six *li*; and it is said to be very populous. According to the report of the Chinese, it is very commercial; contains a great number of manufactories; and is the residence of many opulent merchants. We were not able to ascertain the truth of this information, any more than that of the very popular opinion, which represents this city as the principal seat of sensuality in China. It is asserted that the fair sex is here more beautiful than in any other part of the Chinese dominions; and that the women of *Sou-tcheou-fou* have in that respect obtained for their native city a reputation which no other can dispute.

Every one also speaks of *Sou-tcheou-fou*, *Hong-tcheou-fou*, and *Quang tcheou-fou*, as three of the principal cities in China, and remarkable for the extent of their commerce and the advantageous trade they carry on.

There are two towers at *Sou-tcheou-fou*; one at the north, the other at the south end. They are both alike, and in form and construction resemble that of *Cau-ming-tsi*, of which the reader has been so often reminded.

The suburbs are pretty large, and the vessels which line the canal and quays innumerable. This is a sure mark of prosperity and a flourishing trade. The city contains several triumphal arches of stone, the handsomest of which stands upon a quay exactly opposite to the place where our vessels stopped. This triumphal arch was erected in honour of the Mandarin *Pong-hu-un*, in the forty-third year of the reign of the Emperor *Kan-li* (grandfather to the present Emperor); that is to say, about the year 1702 of our era. It bears the following Chinese inscription:

THAT HE MAY BE REMEMBERED.

These triumphal arches are called in China *Cap-pay-fong*.

On

On the other side of the canal, in the suburbs facing us, is a large square Imperial building, with a double roof, and covered with yellow varnished tiles. In the middle of it stands a stone monument with an inscription. It is afflicting to see that a want of care on the part of the administration of the city has already suffered several marks of decay to appear in this edifice.

We did not observe any thing else worthy of remark; and found ourselves strangely deceived in regard to this celebrated city.

I learned this evening from my Chinese servant, and was afterwards assured by our Interpreter, that we owe to our first conductor all the difficulties that have been raised in opposition to our wish of seeing the city in detail. He had concerted with the Mandarins the means of deceiving our hopes, particularly with respect to a sight of the women, who are reckoned the handsomest in all China, and who have such a reputation for gallantry throughout the Empire, that the court and the principal Mandarins procure from hence the ornaments of their seraglios. In order to attain his end with the greater certainty, he even went so far as to post up a prohibition before our arrival, forbidding any female to come in our way, under

a severe penalty. It is no wonder then if our hopes were delusive.

With a conductor of a more generous nature we might have staid three days in the place, and have seen every thing worthy of attention as well as the environs; instead of which, our expectations were entirely frustrated by the base jealousy of this arrogant Mandarin, who did not however fail to purchase two pretty concubines, nor forget to carry them away with him.

This trade in women is a principal branch of the commerce of the city of *Sou-tcheou-fou*, and the best resource of many of its inhabitants, as well as those of *Hong-tcheou-fou*, in the province of *Tché-kiang*. *Sou-tcheou-fou*, however, bears away the palm from its rival. A great number of individuals have no other means of existence, and, with a view to this traffic, make excursions about the country, in order to buy of the poor inhabitants such of their children as promise to be beautiful.

They bring up these young girls with the greatest care, dress them elegantly, teach them all sorts of needlework, and to play upon different instruments of music, in order that their charms

charms and accomplishments may render them agreeable to the persons into whose hands they may chance to fall.

The handsomest of them are generally bought for the court and the Mandarins of the first class. One who unites beauty with agreeable accomplishments fetches from four hundred and fifty to seven hundred louis-d'ors, while there are some who sell for less than a hundred.

The nature of the population in China affords two girls for a boy; a circumstance which admits of the speculations I am speaking of, and renders them highly beneficial.

From this general practice, as well as from the custom of giving a price, called a dowry, to the parents of the girl whom a man marries, a custom prevalent even among the first personages of the Empire, it is evident that all the women in China are an article of trade.

The husband, in certain cases specified by the law, has a right to sell his lawful wife, unless her family choose to take her back, and restore the dowry they received at the time of her marriage.

There is no country in the world in which the women live in a greater state of humiliation, or are less considered than in China. Those whose husbands are of high rank are always confined; those of the second class are a sort of upper servants, deprived of all liberty; while those of the lower are partakers with the men of the hardest kind of labour. If the latter become mothers it is an additional burthen, since while at work they carry the child tied upon the back, at least till it is able to go alone.

Such is the fate of the Chinese women; and, however hard it may appear to us, these weak beings suffer it with a patience and submission which habit alone can teach.

What a difference between their condition and that of the women in the greater part of Europe! Perhaps morose beings may be found to affirm, that there are some of the latter who would be benefited by participating for a time in the treatment the former endure.

It may be supposed, from what I have said of the degradation of the fair sex in China, that jealousy is unknown there, and that the women might without danger have an intercourse with
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Europeans; but the Chinese are not of that opinion; nor is there any one among them who would choose to risk an experiment, which they guard against, on the contrary, with the utmost vigilance.

Our stay at *Sou-tcheou-fou* having no longer an object, we quitted it at eight o'clock at night.

At about ten *li* from the city we passed by a very long stone bridge, called *Pau-tay-kian*, standing to the eastward of the canal. It has sixty-three arches, of which the three middle ones alone are arched, the others being covered with long flat stones laid across pillars. We travelled all night long.

22d. This morning at three o'clock our first Mandarin ordered the vessels to stop abreast of the city of *Uu-kiang-chen* till day-break, when we proceeded on our journey.

Uu-kiang-chen appears a moderately large place, and has extensive suburbs built alongside of the canal.

In the interior of the city is a tower of six stories high, which differs little in construction

from that of *Cau-ming-tsi*, but is not in equally good repair.

At a small distance from the suburbs is a large stone bridge of five arches, kept in very good order. Each pier rests upon a single stone, in like manner as those of the bridge I mentioned yesterday. Near that I am now speaking of we passed through another, also of stone, the principal arch of which has a span of at least fifty feet, and is the largest I have hitherto seen.

Upwards of twenty *li* beyond the city of *Un-kiang-chen* is a quay alongside of the canal, which has itself a facing of hewn stone on each side. The quay is interrupted or occupied by more than thirty stone bridges, almost all with arches. In the number are two of five, and another very handsome one of seven. The piers of these bridges, like those mentioned yesterday and to-day, rest upon masses of stone, each of a single block.

The quantity of hewn stone employed in such places only of this province as have lain upon our road is truly surprising, when we know that the nearest place from which it can be procured is a hundred and fifty *li* distant, and sometimes
more.

more. These works must consequently have occasioned enormous labour and expence.

The country we have passed through in this day's journey is lower than that of yesterday, and is divided by a number of little canals and ditches. Hence it is that little else than rice is cultivated. The ground continues to be uneven, and full of graves and trees, which produce a variety not disagreeable to the eye.

I remarked here a singular usage relative to the dead, whose coffins are deposited in any field indiscriminately, and upon the surface of the earth. Those who can afford it build a little square wall round the coffin, equal to it in height, over which a small roof is erected, covered with tiles; others lay straw and mats over it; while the lower class of people content themselves with laying merely a *stratum* of turf over the coffin, and leave it in that situation. We have passed by a great many graves of this kind during the two last days.

As the Chinese show a high degree of reverence for the dead, this mode of treating them, which appears so indecent, astonished me much. I enquired the reason, and was told that the
land

land was so low, that the dead bodies could not be interred without lying in the water ; an idea which the Chinese cannot bear, because they are persuaded that the deceased love a dry abode. After some time has elapsed, the coffins that have been thus left in the open fields are burnt with the bodies they contain ; and the ashes are carefully collected, and put into covered urns, which are afterwards half buried in the earth. I saw several urns thus deposited by the road side.

This was the first time I had ever heard that the practice of burning the dead and collecting their ashes is customary in China, as it was among the ancient Greeks and Romans. I do not at least remember that in all I formerly read concerning China any thing like it is mentioned ; nor had I ever heard of any thing of the kind in the thirty-six years I had been personally acquainted with the country ; a space of time during which I frequently made enquiries of men of letters and information concerning every thing relative to the history, manners, and peculiarities of their native land. This fact is a convincing proof that there are very few Chinese who have a general knowledge of the whole Empire, or who are acquainted with the customs of the provinces they do not inhabit.

In

In the course of the morning we saw several fields sown with mustard already in flower. Upon higher ground situated along the canal we also saw plantations of young mulberry trees, intended to afford nourishment to silk-worms, which indicates that we are beginning to approach the manufactories of raw silk, which are principally carried on in the province of *Tché-kiang*, although that silk, as I have already said, very improperly bears the name of *Nam-king*.

Since I have mentioned the guard-houses, or military posts of the other provinces, I shall here say, with respect to the province *Kiang-nam*, that they are all in very good condition, and sufficiently provided with troops, as we had it in our power to judge, since they did not fail to draw up under arms upon our road.

At a quarter past nine we passed by *Pat-chac-fau*, a very large place, and celebrated for its oil extracted from turnips, which are cultivated in great abundance. In this town we remarked a stone bridge of seven arches, the piers of which rested upon masses of stone of a single block.

Every day we pass by vessels laden with rice, which are going up the canal. Yesterday in
par-

particular, while we were at *Sou-tcheou fou*, the number that went by was incredible.

The ground has assumed a level surface, and, as every thing is planted in beds, the fields have the appearance of kitchen gardens. Even the very mulberry trees, whose growth appears to be stopped at man's height, are also planted in beds. It is highly probable that this district is subject to heavy rains, which require this precaution, in order to carry off the water more speedily, and to preserve the land from damage.

At eleven o'clock we were opposite a little lake, situated to the westward, and only separated from us by a quay, similar to those of which I have already spoken.

At noon we passed *Phing-mong-chan*, a large and populous place, and so well built, that it would be disgraced by a comparison with many cities. It contains five stone bridges, one of which has three arches, and two have only one; but they are of fifty or sixty feet diameter. These are at the end of the place, and kept in very good order.

The

The piers here also stand upon single blocks of stone. In the two great arches which I have just mentioned the vault or curve is formed of eleven stones, and six compose the width of the bridge. Ten of the stones of the vault are each eight feet long, as well as I was able to judge from the height of a man, who was standing upon one of the blocks at the foot of the piers, and who served me as a measure. The key-stone is six feet broad. The arch in its whole sweep describes a line somewhat elliptic, the curve being smaller than that of a semi-circle.

The last bridge, at the end of *Phing-mong-chan*, has ten great stones in the vault, and that which serves as the key-stone is smaller than in the preceding one. There are also eight smaller stones, each a foot broad, let into the larger ones. All the latter have a groove, which describes throughout the whole of them a portion of an ellipsis corresponding with the edge of the arch, and the line formed by the meeting of two stones is in the direction of a radius drawn to the centre of the ellipsis to which the curve of the arch belongs. In a word, the whole is a proof that the strictest geometrical rules have been observed in the construction of this bridge.

This place contains several temples of moderate size, which are kept in very good order. One of them is dedicated to *Kiam-long-citay-onan*, one to *Sam-coun-tong*, and two to *Sing-onon*.

At *Phing-mong-chan* a great trade appears to be carried on in bamboos, which grow there in remarkable abundance.

Having passed this place, we found ourselves shortly after abreast of a great lake, in the centre of which is a little tabular island, with a pagoda standing upon it, dedicated to *Fat-lou*.

At half past one we came to a very rich and extensive village, situated west of the canal, where, as we were told, there is a considerable manufactory of fatin and other stuffs of silk. The houses are, for the most part, large, and well arranged. This village is called *Ouon-ca-tché*.

At half past three we reached *Ouon-con-can*, the first place we met with after entering the province of *Tché-kiang*; here our conductor ordered a halt. The village is of some extent, and at its north end is a large and handsome triumphal arch of stone, near which stands a small but neat pagoda. Beyond the village are two stone bridges,

bridges, near to each other, one of which has three arches, the other only one. The centre arch of the first bridge, as well as I was able to judge by the stones which formed the vault, was sixty-four feet in width. One of the side arches is much sunk, but still appears to be sufficiently strong to last many years: an advantage which hewn stone possesses in a high degree over bricks; for the latter yields upon the slightest shock; all connexion is dissolved, and total ruin ensues. The houses of the village all appear to be kept in good order. The inhabitants procure their means of subsistence from the manufacture of silk. This is the most noted place in the Empire for making copper basons, or *gomgoms*, an instrument which the Chinese beat upon in saluting any one, to whom they wish to pay particular honour.

Between two houses situated alongside of the canal, are four great triumphal arches, which indicate that several persons of great celebrity must have been inhabitants of this place.

After having taken a repast we set off at half past six. As far as *Ouon-ca-tchi* the wind was in our favour.

23d. We arrived before three o'clock in the morning at a village called *Ca-hong-bou*, where

we changed our trackers and set off again two hours after, directing our course to the south-west.

At day-break I observed that the surface of the country was become uneven. We passed by a great many hills covered with trees, among which we distinguished whole plantations of mulberry trees, and a great number of orchards. There was very little arable land. The number of trees and shrubs with which we were surrounded, confined our view to a small distance on each side of the canal. The few houses that I was able to see between them, were long and well built. These circumstances again announce the rearing of silk-worms, which require a great deal of room.

In answer to my questions, I was told that the mulberry-tree cultivated here, is of the kind which bears the dark purple-coloured fruit, of a very agreeable taste. Hence it should seem that the silk-worm is here fed with the leaves of our well-known domestic mulberry tree, and not with that of the wild one.

In France and Italy it is affirmed that the latter is alone fit for the nourishment of this insect, and that the leaves of the common mulberry tree are too

too coarse, and too little suited to the nature of the animal for those that are fed upon it, to produce silk of a good quality. But the raw silk of *Tché kiang* being reckoned the finest and most valuable in the known world, we may conclude that the European opinion concerning the mulberry-tree is rather a prejudice than the result of decisive experience.

I will even venture to give implicit belief to what I have been told in this respect by those whom I have consulted, because they are so well acquainted with the nature of the mulberry tree, that they afterwards observed to me, that the female tree alone produces the fruit, while the male bears nothing but flowers, without any fructification. I was even much astonished to hear these distinctions made by one of the common people, whose business was navigation, and not agriculture. As he also described to me the fruit, its taste, and its colour with wonderful accuracy, I had no room left for doubt, especially as the trees of which I had a very near view, appeared to me precisely the same as our garden mulberry trees in Holland, and exceedingly different from the wild mulberry-tree (*murier rose*). The latter appears unknown in this country.

At a quarter past nine we passed through a bridge called *Cha-ong-kiou*, near which are several shops by the side of the canal. The bridge is strong and well constructed. From the dimensions of the stones I was led to estimate the circumference of its semi-circular arch at twenty six feet, and its diameter at more than fifty-seven*. I observed of this bridge, as I had already done of several others, that between the large stones, smaller ones had been inserted: these are also of a single block, and the width of the bridge serves as a measure for their length. Thus, the arch that I am just speaking of, is composed of only seventy-six stones; viz. sixty-six great stones placed in eleven rows, which are separated by the ten intermediate ones: they are all at least half a foot thick. Over these there is another layer of stones, placed horizontally, each of which is something more than three inches thick. All these stones are a kind of grey granite, and exceedingly hard. The width of the road-way is generally nine or ten French feet.

* Here appears to be some mistake. At least if the translation render correctly the sense of these words of the text: *Les dimensions des pierres m'ont fait donner au contour de son arche demi-sphérique vingt-six pieds et plus de cinquante sept pieds à son diamètre.*

Near this bridge are seven triumphal arches of stone; six standing three and three, on two different spots: the seventh alone. They are dedicated for the most part to women; for instance, to three very young widows, who refused to marry again; and to an old woman of ninety-eight years of age. A man celebrated for filial piety has also obtained one. The inscription engraved on the pedestal of the other being concealed by a hut, we could not discover the motive of its erection.

In proportion as we advanced, and new space was disclosed to our view, we perceived the number of mulberry trees increase; and towards noon the country was entirely covered with them.

A few minutes before twelve o'clock we passed by one of the Emperor's seats called *Chap-moun-ouan-ouoncong*, entirely surrounded with walls. The roofs are in a very neglected state, and nothing has a pleasing appearance except a stone quay, built upon the spot fronting the Imperial house, and appearing to have recently had a thorough repair. The Emperor not having travelled for the last twelve years to the southern parts of the Empire, it appears that all the money is reserved for his present country residencies; or perhaps some of it goes to fill the pockets of individuals.

viduals. Formerly the Monarch went as far as *Hong-tcheou-fou* to divert himself in these countries, and to give a look to the southern provinces, by which they were sure to be benefited. Then the Mandarins took care that every thing should appear in good condition. The roads, the bridges, the quays, the edifices and summer palaces of the Emperor, every thing was at all times ready to undergo his examination. These constant repairs were also extended to a great number of public buildings. Here, as in Europe, and every where else, the eye of the master is often necessary, its influence generally conducing to the happiness of the people, and the good order of the state.

At noon we were a-breast of *Chap-moun-san*, which stands on both banks. We were half an hour in passing through as much of the canal as corresponds with its length. It appears at a distance very closely built, and very populous, as was attested by the number of persons, both male and female, who thronged to see us, composing crowds at which we were perfectly astonished.

Chap-moun san must carry on a great trade in young plants or sets of the mulberry tree, since I saw

saw heaps of them putting on board boats from one end of the canal to the other.

I also saw several vessels pass by loaded with indigo, in their way to *Sou-tcheou-fou*, where it is used in dying silk and linen. This substance is cultivated and manufactured in the district of *Tay-chion-fou*, in the province of *Tché-kiang*. The Chinese, however, do not keep it as elsewhere in dry pieces or cakes, but leave it in a moist state resembling wet clay, and carry it in baskets to the places where the dyers and manufacturers reside. The use of that dye being very general in China for all kinds of stuffs and linen, the consumption is considerable. All the indigo manufactured in China remains in the country; for I never had the least reason to suppose that any was exported to Europe, which its moist state would indeed render impracticable. The province of *Quang-tong* produces a great quantity of that colouring matter.

At half past one, we passed by a place which appeared to me to be a common burying ground. In one of the angles were several coffins, placed near one another on the ground; and a little farther on, funeral urns half buried in the earth. A little farther still in the same piece of ground,

are three handsome hexagonal columns of stone, standing by the side of each other: they are ten or twelve feet high. The middle one, which exceeds the others in size, may be four or five feet in diameter. A single convex stone, of small thickness, serves as a capital to each of them, and from it's middle proceeds a double ball of metal chased. In the front of these columns, which stand under the shade of a lofty tree, an inscription is engraved. I was assured that funeral urns were lodged inside of them.

By the side of those columns is an antique tomb, which, to judge from its dimensions, must contain two coffins; and which, according to the indications afforded by the growth of ivy, and by the effect of time upon the stones, must have stood at least two hundred years.

Near this tomb is a pagoda in which the dead are deposited previously to their interment, and where an offering is made in their favour. I took a sketch of this spot, in order to have a correct drawing made of it at Canton.

At half past two we came to another burying ground, on which stand four stone columns, intended to contain sepulchral urns. These columns

lums may be about six feet square, and ten or twelve feet high, with capitals of more or less elevation.

At the entrance of this cemetery, which is situated to the westward of the canal, while that of the preceding one is to the eastward, are four triumphal arches of stone; but one of them is fallen to the ground.

At three o'clock we came to the suburbs of *Che-men-chen*, which are pretty extensive, and then to the city itself. Its ramparts bear all the marks of antiquity. They are of hewn stone as high as the parapet, which, as well as the embrasures, is of brick. But the whole of it is, at present in a ruinous state. According to the line we described while passing by the city, it is of an irregular form approaching a square. It is said to be twenty *li* in circumference; to be well built, and to be inhabited by many persons of opulence and distinction.

At the entrance of the suburbs we passed by a considerable convent, with its temple and dependencies. The temple is dedicated to the Christian *Kiam-long-citay-ouang*, whom I have several times had occasion to mention. We perceived
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in the suburbs and city of *Che-men-chen*, two or three other convents of mean appearance.

Being come to the south side of the city, our first conductor ordered a halt, an opportunity of which we availed ourselves to take our repast. We were then in front of a noble building, which when the Emperor used to travel to the south, served him as lodgings on his passage through this place. It is called *Ouan-cong*, and appears to be kept in very good order.

At a quarter past six we set off again, our direction, which in the morning had changed to the south, having turned again to the south-west.

The country, like that we travelled through yesterday, is intersected with canals and ditches. We passed through nine great bridges, (besides those which I have particularly mentioned under this day's date) and through several small ones, all of stone, and almost all constructed like those I have so amply described: I took a regular plan of them.

We saw besides thirteen triumphal arches, two of the most remarkable of which owed their erection to the exemplary conduct of two sons
towards

towards their parents. Almost all the rest were in honour of faithful wives, or girls who died virgins. Three others were lying in ruins. We have then seen in the course of this day no less than twenty-seven of these pieces of architecture, erected to different virtues, and giving real celebrity to the places where they stand. Whenever I saw these signs of public respect for virtuous beings, I felt a sort of confusion and secret pain, upon thinking that among us there exist no such marks of a just homage paid to valuable qualities, and calculated to excite emulation.

Is conduct, or an action, in itself worthy of praise, to be less commended because it belongs to an obscure individual, than if it could be attributed to a person of high rank, who has been taught by his education to set a just value upon true honour? As to me, I profess the contrary opinion, exactly because elevated rank furnishes an incitement which is wanting to him, whose neglected education has neither afforded him great models, nor useful lessons.

24th. At half past three in the morning we passed under a considerable bridge of three arches, the middle one being of very considerable dimensions. The canal is become wider, and our route,
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which during a part of the night had taken a direction westward, has turned again to the south.

A little after four we passed a large place called *Thong-ci-san*, where a number of handsome houses are built along the canal, and where there is a *conquan*, or occasional residence for the Emperor. At the south end of this place stands a beautiful triumphal arch of stone, of considerable size, and ornamented with a great deal of sculpture and gilding.

At sun-rise we perceived mountains at a great distance, extending from the east to the south, and some also in a western direction.

The country was higher on the western than on the eastern side of the canal. The latter for this reason grows fewer mulberry trees, which require a high situation. Corn and other vegetables are sown in beds of only a foot and a half wide, as tobacco is planted in Holland, with little ditches or drains between them. The earth taken from these ditches serves to raise the beds, and preserve the seed from the ravages committed by heavy rains.

In front of the road, or rather quay, and by the side of the canal, runs a wall of hewn stone, which suffered greatly in several places by the inundation of last year, on account of its bad foundation, consisting of nothing but two rows of thin piles. Immediately on these rest the lower stones, without any other support, even that of a plank." The earth being washed away by the water, the piles can no longer support the weight of the stones, which are each about fifteen inches cube, and are piled upon one another to the height of eight or ten feet: they consequently sink in, or give way, and the masonry tumbles to pieces.

After considering attentively the solidity and excellent execution of the bridges, I was greatly astonished at finding structures in the same places bespeaking the grossest ignorance, and even stupidity. This long quay is nevertheless equally necessary with the bridges, and requires to be kept in as good repair.

At eight o'clock the country to the eastward grew higher, and the orchards of mulberry trees began in consequence to re-appear. On both sides of the canal was also a considerable number of peach trees in blossom, which made the prof-

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pect very agreeable. I am assured that peaches are very common here, and much larger than in Europe. I saw also a great number of China orange, plum, and other kinds of fruit trees.

At eight o'clock we were in sight of a very high insulated mountain, standing between two branches of the canal, at about five *li* distance to the eastward. It is covered with a variety of trees to the very summit, on which are built, under a thick shade, a convent and a pagoda called *Ling-phin-chan*. All the other mountains were bare, and without the smallest verdant spot.

The guard-houses of this province by which we have passed are all in good condition, and appear to have their complement of ten soldiers, with an officer of the gilt button. These military posts are in this province at unequal distances from each other, from five to ten *li*, according as the district is more or less populous. On our present road they are only separated by an interval of five *li*.

During the morning we passed by several cemeteries, interspersed with noble stone columns, inside of which are funeral urns. We also passed by a dozen of convents and temples, for
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the most part in good preservation; but we did not perceive a single triumphal arch.

At eleven o'clock we found ourselves under a large bridge of three arches, similar to that we had seen in the morning. After passing this bridge we came to the suburbs of the celebrated city of *Hong-tcheou-fou*. They are intersected by several ditches with handsome bridges across them, under several of which we passed. At three quarters past twelve we came to the place where vessels stop, and where there is a large and handsome edifice, intended to serve as lodgings for the principal Mandarins, when they travel.

Shortly after our third conductor came to inform the Ambassador and me that an Imperial entertainment will be given us to-morrow in the city. He requested us to hold ourselves in readiness at an early hour, because it is intended to shew us several things worthy of attention. In consequence of this he proposed to us not to dine at the place of the ceremony; but to defer that repast till the evening, when we are to embark on board of other boats, into which our baggage will be removed during our excursion. We acquiesced in every thing without the least opposition.

sition. He added that we are to stop again near this place the day after to-morrow in our new vessels, in order that we may, if we think proper, procure a few curiosities, or a sight of any thing interesting, which gives us much pleasure; for we have heard *Hong-tcheou-fou* and its environs so highly extolled, that our curiosity is strongly excited, and we shall be very happy to gratify it.

This afternoon our five gentlemen went into the city to see if the shops contained any thing remarkable; and returned at three o'clock without having observed any thing worthy of notice. They were not able to proceed far into the city, the gates being a great distance from our anchoring place. They consequently saw little more than the suburbs.

The change of vessels, which is to take place to-morrow, will not be advantageous to us as to accommodations, those we are to go on board of being smaller than those we are to leave, on account of the shoals that obstruct the rest of the river. Our baggage is to be conveyed thirty *li* by land, as far as the little town of *Tak hau*, where those vessels are waiting for us, in consequence of there being no communication between the river and the canal along which we have hitherto travelled. This removal is as unpleasant

pleasant as troublesome, because our effects are always sure to sustain considerable injury. Fortunate will it be if fair weather permit our *Coulis* to go the whole distance without stopping!

25th. We got our baggage ready at an early hour of the morning, in order that it may be conveyed to the vessels, which are to carry us to the confines of this province.

The hire of our present *yachts* from *Von-ca-sen* hither is only nine Louis d'ors; a very small sum, especially if we consider that from twelve to sixteen men are employed on board of them. The Mandarins do these poor wretches great injustice, in order to fill their own pockets, the Emperor's name serving as a cover for plunder.

Each cart employed in carrying our baggage from *Pe-king* to *Von-ca-sen*, had only two Louis d'ors for a route of twenty-three days, although there were five horses and three men to each. Luckily they found a profitable load to carry back with them; for in general they are obliged to go as far as the province of *Kiang-nam*, without earning any thing whatever. The expence of their return will not however be forgotten to be inserted in the account. Our conductors, and all their

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servants, know well how much such fortunate chances ought to bring them.

At eight o'clock the Ambassador and I were requested to repair to the city with our whole suite; we accordingly went in state in our palanquins. At three quarters past two we entered a building by the side of the Imperial palace, whence, after waiting half an hour, we were conducted on foot to the latter place. There we were received as at *Sou-tcheou-fou* with the greatest ceremony. The garrison was under arms; and two Mandarins led us to the hall where the Emperor's *chap.* was laid upon an altar. The *Fou-yuen* of the city and province, who is cousin to the Emperor, and who wears the pale-coloured button and peacock's feather in his cap, was on the right hand of the altar, while a great number of principal Mandarins stood on each side at some distance behind. When pretty near the altar we stopped: the *Fou-yuen* then came in front of it, and performed the salute of honour: rising again, he took the Emperor's letter, which was upon the altar, and advanced towards us. At this moment we knelt down, and he communicated to us through the medium of the *Lingua* what he seemed to read in the letter, " that his Imperial Majesty, satisfied to the last
" degree

“ degree with the Dutch Embassy, as well as
 “ with the conduct of the Ambassador and his
 “ suite, had given orders to entertain his Excel-
 “ lency in his name, to make him presents, to
 “ treat him in the kindest manner, and to shew
 “ him the most remarkable things the city con-
 “ tained,” &c. &c.

The letter being perused, we performed the salute of honour, and then rose and presented our respects to the *Fou-yuen* and some of the principal Mandarins, who begged us to seat ourselves upon cushions, in order to see the play. Little tables were afterwards set before us, covered with sweetmeats and fruit, that were removed to make room for porringers full of hot viands, which in their turn were succeeded by roast and boiled meat. These we did not even taste.

During this repast, actors and tumblers, richly and variously habited, displayed their talents upon a superb theatre opposite the hall. This diversion engaged our attention for half an hour: we then rose to go and see the interesting things, the idea of which had strongly excited our curiosity.

The presents were brought and put upon tables in the hall. The *Fou-yuen* offered them to us,

and we expressed our gratitude by a new salute of honour. This ceremony being at an end, the *Fou-yuen* advanced towards the Ambassador, and told him in the most affable manner, that in conformity with the Emperor's orders, he had directed two Mandarins to shew us some curious objects worthy of our attention. His Excellency having thanked him both for the favour and his kindness, we took our leave. It was eleven o'clock when we left the palace to make our excursion.

I shall begin my description by the city:

Hong-tcheou-fou is sixty *li* in circumference (six leagues). It is of irregular form; in some places the walls are circular; in others straight; and in others again, they wind up the side of lofty mountains. The interior of the city is pretty well built, and contains several handsome houses. It is intersected by a number of ditches: the streets are not wide, but they are well paved with large hewn stones. In passing through them I remarked some capital shops displaying a great choice of goods, and warehouses containing all sorts of merchandise. Among others, to my great astonishment, I saw three watch-maker's shops, and a great number of others full of smoked hams.

hams. It looked as if Westphalia was in China, and in the vicinity of this city.

I observed also several very pretty triumphal arches of stone, and two of remarkable size and grandeur, standing close by the side of each other, and within the city gates. Near these gates two pieces of cannon are planted, carrying a ball of about six pounds weight, and mounted upon carriages with three wheels.

In one of the streets I also remarked a Mahometan mosque.

On the architrave of the building is an inscription in Arabic, of which I took a copy.

On this subject our third conductor assured me that *Sou tcheou-fou*, and some other city contained mosques likewise, but that the Emperor having made war twelve years ago against a Mahometan nation upon the western frontier of the Empire, had banished all foreigners of that sect from those three places, so that there are no longer any to be found in China.

Having reached the outside of the city, we had a good opportunity of seeing the walls,
P 3 which

which are of great antiquity; they are constructed of hewn stone as high as the parapet, and are of brick-work above. Its whole surface is covered with different parasitical plants, and even with small shrubs, which have found means to grow in the crevices of the walls.

We were carried to a considerable distance along the west side of the city without the walls, till we perceived the lake of *Tsay-von-cang*, so famous throughout China, on account of the Emperor's summer palaces, which stand upon its borders, and in its vicinity. This lake is situated between the eastern part of the city, and high mountains, interspersed with pines and other kinds of trees, and winding from the north-west end of the city, to the south-west of it, at which part the walls are carried over the top of one of them. On the summit of the others, are five convents or pagodas, viz. *Pac-chan-hong*, *Samsing-ying*, *Samsing-chec*, *Nam-chan-hong*, and *Ouang-tsi*, all standing under the shade of lofty trees.

The lake contains three islands, of which the most northerly, and also the largest, called *Ouong-cong-chan*, has a mountain in the middle. The centre island is called *Lok-yet-chung*, and the southern one *Tong-tsan-tsi*. Several villas stand upon

upon each of them, and to these the Emperor was in the habit of going to amuse himself every day while at *Hong-tcheou-fou*.

Two roads are carried over the lakes. They are paved in the middle, and on their sides are planted with willows, bananas, peach, and other fruit trees. There are also a great many stone bridges of a single arch, in order that the little pleasure boats may pass to both sides of these roads. On each of the bridges formerly stood open pavilions, several of which are now lying in ruins upon the ground.

One of the two roads leads from the city to the great island, to the north of which is a noble stone bridge of five arches, serving as a communication between the island and the main. The other road which passes over the western part of the lake lies north and south.

We were carried along the foot of the mountains to the north of the lake, a little distance from the city. On the summit of those mountains we were shewn a tower, called *Pau-soc-thafe*, which must, when entire, have resembled that of *Cau-ming-tsi*, and others of the same kind; but nothing now remains except the mass of build-

ing, and the beautiful spire of cast metal, with chains still hanging about it. The roof, as well as the galleries, which were of wood, are either destroyed by the consuming hand of time, or perhaps by the action of celestial fire. In going along the mountains we also passed near a great convent, the neighbourhood of which contains several handsome temples. It is called *Tay-saa-tsi*, and makes a very fine appearance. At the foot of these mountains, as also in several places a small way up their sides, are a considerable number of little low buildings, in every one of which are coffins containing dead bodies, to be kept there till the time of their interment. These little buildings are divided into fifteen or twenty cells, all following one another, and calculated to receive a coffin each. The whole circumference of the lake being almost entirely full of them, it may be safely said that the dead bodies lie there by hundreds, and that some of them have been waiting to be inhumed for these sixty or eighty years, or perhaps more. These places, and the deposits made there, are under the safe-guard of the bonzes belonging to the neighbouring convents, who receive on that account a remuneration which contributes in a great degree to their support.

Further

Further on we found three or four hamlets, full of shops; and several triumphal arches of stone, standing either between the houses or near the sepulchres.

When we came to an elbow made by the mountains to the north-west, we were desired to alight from our palanquins, in order to see the tomb of the celebrated *Calao*, named *Ngok-fi*, or otherwise *Ngok-so-hand-kan*, whose story I related under the date of the 19th of this month. The tomb of this unfortunate, but estimable man, consists of a hemisphere of brick. On the left of it is another smaller one, which covers the remains of *Ngok-ouang*, his son. In front of the great tomb, and opposite the middle of it, is an altar supporting a vase for incense; the whole of hewn stone, and intended for sacrifices offered to the memory of this noble character.

The two tombs constructed upon an elevated spot, are separated by a wall with a triple gate, from a large square fore-court, along the middle of which, in a line from the first outer gate to the inner one, stand a number of antique figures cut in stone, and opposite to each other. Each row consists of three Mandarins, a horse saddled, a ram lying down, and a sitting lion. On the two

sides of the first outer gate are also the bronze statues of the four calumniators, placed two by two on their knees, with their hands tied behind their back; their faces turned towards the sepulchre; their eyes cast down, and their names inscribed upon their breast, viz. *Then-kouey* and *Quong-tsi* his wife; then *Mau-tché-lu* and *Loua-x-tchit*. For more than two centuries, it has been an established custom among the Chinese, when they go to offer sacrifices before the tomb, to strike with a bit of stone or wood upon the forehead of the statues of these four villains, as a sign of horror at their crime. At the time of our visit, one of them was detached from its pedestal, and lying in a corner near the gate.

The whole sepulchre is surrounded with walls, and a number of trees are standing by it. A large and superb gate, with three passages, forms the entrance, which leads into a great court paved with hewn stone, and having on each side two beautiful cylindrical columns, also of hewn stone, and about fifteen feet high. A little further on are two plain square pillars, of the same height as the columns.

After having viewed this justly celebrated monument, to which time seems to have added something

something still more august, by bringing round eight hundred annual revolutions of the sun, since the moment, when in remembrance of an involuntary but fatal error, the Emperor ordered it to be erected, to vindicate in an authentic manner the memory of that virtuous Minister of State; after having viewed this monument, I say, we were conducted to the south side of the lake; thence we were carried over the embankment or road which runs along the west side of the lake, and of which I have already spoken, in order to see the Imperial palace, and other things worthy of notice.

I there got out of my palanquin to walk, and be the better able to make observations.

I then examined the island of *On-on-cong* to the west and south, having already seen the two other sides of it. In this quarter it is planted with trees up to the very summit, having also a great number of handsome habitations standing among them.

To the south are buildings belonging to the Emperor, which, together with the gardens, form a very pleasing view. To the north and east are much fewer dwellings; but a mixture
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of small houses or receptacles for coffins, and the tombs there, compose a landscape no doubt less rich, but calculated to impress the man of sensibility, and to occupy his mind with ideas truly philosophic.

To the westward of the road along which we were going, I passed by two of the Emperor's summer palaces, both situated upon two peninsulas, and surrounded with trees and flower gardens. At the end of this road, and near the foot of the mountain, we were conducted to his principal residence, called *Ce-ou-yau-tien-nan*, situated in a hollow of the mountain, and consisting of several detached edifices, built upon rocks upon different parts of the declivity.

Almost every thing in this picturesque situation is entirely the work of nature; and if she has sometimes borrowed the assistance of art, the efforts of the latter have been so happy, that it seems still as if nature has been working alone: this delightful variety produces a fascinating prospect. From the pavilions and domes placed here and there upon the declivity of the mountain, the eye commands a full view of the lake, and of the islands it contains; and on the other side, takes in the different buildings, convents, tombs,
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and towers, which are scattered upon the flanks of other mountains, and which embellish their summits. So many objects united, compose the most attractive scene the imagination can conceive.

Being at a sufficient elevation, we had a complete view of the two flat islands in the lake; one of them, called *Tong-tsau-tsi*, contains two large ponds. In the front of this island, we remarked three pillars of cast iron, standing in the water in a triangular position. The part of these pillars or columns which appears above water, terminates in a cone. I was told that they are about eighteen feet high, seven feet diameter at their base, and have already been standing eight hundred years.

This renders it still more painful to see that in general these summer palaces bear so many marks of negligence, and of the decay which is the natural consequence of it. It is the effect of the Emperor's absence for the last twelve years, and of a belief that his great age opposes an invincible obstacle to his return. These places, when kept in good order, must have been in the summer season a kind of terrestrial paradise; an asylum where every thing invited to pleasure and sensuality. It is not without reason that this lake and
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its environs are so renowned throughout the whole Chinese Empire ; and most assuredly if nature had created such happy situations in Europe, their beauties would be incessantly proclaimed.

It is impossible for me to give a more exact description, after a short, and in some degree a superficial examination. It would require eight days, perhaps even double the time, to see and to admire all the beauties of the place, and to investigate every thing attentively, so as to let neither situation, edifice, island, nor prospect escape; and after all it would be impossible to avoid overlooking something or other.

Nevertheless, to please my own taste, and to gratify my reader, whose curiosity must be excited by my imperfect description, I borrowed from *Duhalde* a plan of the lake and city, and afterwards augmented and corrected it according to my own personal observations; and by these means an idea may be formed of the enchanting situation of each of those imperial villas.

After having been entertained by our conductors in one of the halls with refreshments consisting of fruits, pastry, and a dish of tea, we quitted this delightful spot, to go and see a very celebrated

celebrated convent and temple, which stand at no great distance.

The principal bonze came out to meet us in the forecourt, and accompanied us, in order to point out what was worthy of our notice. Every thing is in very good order, and the principal halls of the temple are both magnificent and spacious. In a large square lateral building, having a circular gallery with two long galleries opening into it, and intersecting each other at right angles in the centre, are placed five hundred images of Saints, nearly as large as life, and sitting in different postures. Some of them are painted and varnished, but for the most part they are gilt all over.

We were desirous to observe that the Emperor *Kien-long* is already included in the number of Saints, although still living; a proof of adulation greater than that inspired by the chiefs of other nations, and such as a wise Prince ought to reject; but since the Emperor of China is in the habit of being served and honoured like a god, it is very natural that he should let himself be inserted in the list of the beatified before his death.

All these figures of Saints are disposed in such a manner that there is a row seated along the walls on both sides of the galleries, while in the middle two are placed standing back to back, so that it requires a considerable time to see them all. The trouble, however, is not to be regretted on account of the variety of the figures and postures that present themselves to the spectator, while turning continually between the different rows, which form altogether a kind of labyrinth.

Some of the principal statues which occupy the centre are of bronze, as well as several antique censers and other sacred vessels. We were afterwards conducted to a little apartment near a well, the depth of which I estimated at more than thirty feet. A lighted candle was let down into it by means of a cord, to enable us to distinguish a tree standing in the water at the bottom. This tree, or rather this stump, which has been sawed off horizontally, is more than a foot in diameter. The Chinese related to us with the greatest solemnity, and with an air of conviction, that this tree continued constantly to grow from the bottom of the well till it had furnished exactly as much wood as was wanting for the construction of the convent and temples; after which it remained in its present state. It is more easy
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to relate this miracle than to prevail upon Europeans to believe it in this enlightened age ; but the Chinese have not the least doubt of its reality, their superstition being in all respects equal to that of the Portuguese for the blessed Saint Anthony of Padua.

After having seen every thing in this convent, the residence of at least three hundred bonzes, we took leave of their chief who attended us as far as the outer court. At a small distance from thence, we came to the ruins of the tower of *Lau-y-hong-thap*, which is supposed to have stood fifteen hundred years. It is nothing more than a mass of building, of which the seven stories still exist ; but of which all the wooden-work, such as galleries, balconies, projecting roofs and ornaments, which were probably of the same kind as those of *Cau-ming-tsi*, have been entirely destroyed or consumed by lightning.

This long period of time is no doubt the cause of the stones being honey-combed all over ; there are even places where large pieces are wanting, which appear to have been broken off ; but what remains of this building is still sufficient to preserve its name and its remembrance for several centuries to come.

The origin of this tower has been made the subject of a dramatic piece, which I saw represented several times at Canton; but the plot is too complicated, and the ground-work too fabulous, for me to feel the smallest inclination to give an account of it, especially as it is not calculated to please Europeans.

I measured the external part of the tower, and found that one of the sides of the octagon is equal to forty-two French feet, so that its total circumference must be three hundred and thirty-six. Millions of bricks must have been employed in the construction of this building, the height of which may be estimated at a hundred and eighty feet, according to what I shall say hereafter of a similar tower.

Going a considerable way up a mountain at some distance from the tower, we came to a pavilion, under which we found a long and very ancient inscription. From this elevation the prospect is still more extensive than from the summer-palace of which I have already spoken. Hence we could discover the whole of the city, which enabled us to judge of its form, of the style of its buildings, and of its immense extent. The reader may therefore confidently rely upon all I have said upon the subject.

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As it was about three o'clock in the afternoon, we resolved to put an end to our excursion, and to go on board our new vessels. Extremely well pleased with all that had been shewn us, we thanked our conductors, took leave of them, and again got into our palanquins.

Near this spot we passed through a very populous place, and afterwards through a valley lying between two mountains situated near the south-west angle of *Hong-tcheou-fou*. While going along this piece of road, which is for the most part paved with hewn stone, we met with a convent and several habitations.

As soon as we came in sight of the south-west gate, the garrison drew up under arms on both sides of the road, and sounded their conchs while we were passing through the ranks. This garrison was composed of several corps variously clothed and armed; some with bows and arrows, the others with muskets. The latter have pikes, and the former swords and bucklers; while others carry cutlasses at the end of long staves. Each corps has also its particular colours, red, crimson, white, green, and blue. Both soldiers and officers are well appointed, and make a very martial appearance. The soldiers all wear polished and shining

shining helmets. At each end of the line the Ambassador was saluted with three guns.

At four o'clock we reached the town of *Tjak-hau*, at the entrance of which were troops drawn up like those I have just mentioned. Here also the Ambassador was twice saluted. This place, which is pretty large, contains a number of good houses, and a slender tower of seven stories.

After leaving it we came to the residence of the *Hou-pou*, or Custom-house, a handsome building of considerable size, at some distance from which we perceived our vessels upon the river. The intermediate ground between it and the custom-house is unsound, and is covered with a kind of mud or slime deposited by the water. It is over this space that four-wheel carts, drawn by buffaloes, carry every thing that is to be embarked.

Tjak hau is the place where all the vessels bring up that are laden with merchandize for *Hong-tcheou-fou*, or intended to take on board what is sent from that city.

In order to facilitate the passage to our vessels, the Chinese took all the carriages, more than two hundred.

hundred in number, and by ranging them in a line one after another, made as it were two bridges, by means of which happy invention we were carried to the vessels, as well as our baggage.

We found our new floating habitations much smaller than those we occupied before, since they consisted of only one apartment; but in other respects they are tolerably commodious. As soon as our baggage was put on board, we quitted that disagreeable place *Tsak-hau*, with a hope of meeting with others more worthy of observation.

At half a league thence, we approached so near the banks, that we might have gone on shore by a plank. In this part a convent stands a considerable way up the side of a mountain; and near the convent is a handsome octagonal tower of seven stories. Desirous of examining the details of such a building, I landed, and took a walk up the mountain's side. One of the bonzes came out to meet me, and served me as a guide.

This convent, called *Tsak-un-hauy-faa-tsi*, is inhabited by more than a hundred and fifty monks or bonzes. The present Emperor has honoured it six times with his presence, and has presented it

it with several inscriptions engraved upon stones. The principal divinity of the temple is *Sam-tsi-yu-lauy-fat*.

Near the temple stands the tower, which bears the name of *Lou-ou-pau-thap*. One of its eight sides, measured at the base, is twenty-eight feet, which gives for the total amount two hundred and twenty-four feet. On going in, I perceived that the thickness of the wall of the lower story was eleven feet and a half. At about ten feet within this wall is a second structure, the wall of which is about six French feet thick. It contains an octagonal apartment, with a vaulted roof skillfully turned over it, in the form of a dome. It is there that the divinity *Ouang-ming-sau-tcheou* is adored. The intermediate space, which separates the two walls, or the kind of gallery they leave between them, is also covered by a spherical roof, except at the part where the staircase passes through it; so that the apartment is entirely connected and united with the walls of the tower. Thus they afford each other mutual support.

The second story, and those above it, are all constructed upon the same principle, with no other difference but a proportional diminution in the thickness of the walls. The outer wall, for instance,

instance, of the fourth story, is not more than seven feet and a half thick ; and that of the internal building, corresponding with it, only three feet and a half.

Coun-yam is adored on the second story, and *Tay-tsi* on the third, while the fourth is dedicated to *Tit-sang-duong*. The two last stories contain no idols, in consequence of a beam of fir, near two feet in diameter, ascending from the sixth story to the top of the roof. This beam which rests upon a hewn stone in the centre of the pavement of the sixth story, serves to support a metallic ornament ending in a point above the roof, and inserted at its lower end in the top of the beam, which also exceeds the height of the roof.

The galleries placed without the walls of the tower, as well as the projecting roofs, are works adapted to it, and only supported by pieces of wood ; so that when those galleries and pent-houses are destroyed by time or accidents, the tower itself remains not the less entire, as is proved by that which we saw this morning, and which I have already mentioned.

The point or spire of cast metal is exactly of the same form as that which I described on the 18th of this month.

The height of the tower to the top of the seventh story is measured by a hundred and ninety steps, one hundred and seventy, being eight inches, and the other twenty, eleven inches high, making the total elevation about one hundred and thirty-two feet, or reckoning to the top of the roof one hundred and seventy.

The bonzes assured me that this tower has been built more than seven hundred years ; but it appeared to me to be in too good preservation for a building of such antiquity, unless its outside, as well as the galleries be of more modern date.

From the description of this tower it is easy to conceive that a mass of that thickness composed of very solid bricks, may stand for ages with very little repair.

The antiquity of the tower erected in the city of Utrecht in Holland, and called the *Don*, is well known. It is true that it is built of freestone, and not of bricks ; but the latter when well baked, and held together by a good cement, do not yield in solidity to other materials, as is sufficiently proved by the duration of the buildings in which they are employed. I examined the masonry both within and without with the
utmost

utmost care, and I confess that I could not discover the smallest mark of decay from top to bottom: every thing looked the same as in a building perfectly new.

I was exceedingly happy to have an opportunity of viewing one of these buildings with that scrupulous attention which I was able to pay to this.

After having drank a dish of tea in the great hall, I took leave of the bonzes, and returned highly satisfied towards my floating habitation.

On coming to the water side, I was witness to a phenomenon which in the whole course of my life I never saw before. As we are only at forty *li* from the sea, the river partakes of the ebb and flood of the ocean. As soon as the tide began to make, the water rushed suddenly in, and rose with a great deal of agitation more than a foot in two minutes. Care had been taken to remove the vessels from the shore before the turn of the tide, and to station them in places where there is a considerable depth of water, at a distance from one another, because the rapidity of the current is such as to expose them to be driven

driven upon the rocks, or to be stove in case of their falling aboard of each other.

As we are now at the time of the neap-tides, according to the nautical mode of speech, the water rose with little force ; but I was assured, and there is great probability of its being true, that during the spring tides the water rushes in with more violent impetuosity, and rises to a greater height, which renders the river particularly dangerous for shipping, especially when the wind blows from the eastward. The same phenomenon takes place in the Ganges, where it is called *Bhaar*,

During our journey from *Hong-tcheou-fou* hither we have passed by at least a dozen convents, an incontestible proof that in this part of the country the monks must lead a most comfortable life.

26th. As our stay in the vicinity of *Tsak-hau* is prolonged, the Ambassador and the rest of his suite are gone to take a walk to the convent which I saw yesterday, and to examine it, as well as the neighbouring mountains. Having already enjoyed the charming prospect, I stayed at home in order to commit to paper the observations I had yesterday occasion to make.

Experience

Experience proves to me that our present vessels, although not altogether incommodious, are the worst we have hitherto occupied. The sailors in going from one end to the other are obliged to pass through my apartment; and when their meals are preparing I am annoyed by the smoke, and by the abominable smell of the oil or grease with which they dress their victuals. I shall accordingly feel less regret at quitting my present floating lodgings, than when I left the last. Fortunately the weather continues to be very fair, which renders our voyage far less disagreeable than it would otherwise be.

27th. Although this day was fixed for our departure, the Mandarin of the place was so tardy in delivering our provisions that it was two o'clock in the afternoon before we were able to set sail. After being half an hour under way, we were obliged to take in our sails, because an elbow made by the river rendered our course absolutely contrary to the direction of the wind. We were therefore compelled to recur speedily to the tracking-line, which our present trackers do not handle with so much skill as those who preceded them.

Each tracker has his own line, which is very thin, but made of some strong material, while all
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the vessels of the other provinces have a single large rope fixed to the mast, to which each tracker fastens his own little cord. This gives me occasion to reflect upon the little analogy that exists between the customs of the inhabitants of different provinces, so that one can hardly suppose them to belong to the same nation. There is scarcely a single point in which they can be said to agree. Language, dress, covering of the head, vessels, form of administration, agriculture, every thing, in a word, differs in each province. The language of the Mandarins is the only thing that is alike throughout the Empire; but from one province to another there is such a change of dialect, that our Canton servants found it very difficult to understand the language of the other parts of the country. Now if this dissonance is so perceptible in the seven provinces we have travelled through, it is probable that it exists in all the others. The edifices, however, as far as I was able to observe, are all constructed in the same way; not only the temples and convents, but even the private houses.

We were surrounded at some distance with plains immediately by the river side, very low, and sown with turnips, and interspersed with orchards full of peach and plumb-trees, all in flower,
with

with a mixture of bamboos. A little farther were fruit-trees in still greater quantity, and affording a variety very pleasing to the eye. Where the country became more mountainous, the cultivation of corn superseded that ~~of~~ every thing else.

We kept along the eastern shore of the river, which was very wide, without appearing to have any great depth of water. At five o'clock we passed by the village of *Ce-au-chan*, containing a number of good-looking buildings, among which are several distilleries.

A quarter of an hour after we came to *Keau-san-yen*, occupying a very large space along the east bank of the river. Here are several dock-yards for the construction of junks and other large vessels, and whole ship-loads of oil, which gives reason to presume that there are oil-mills in this place. On the side of the river, which here takes a south-east direction, the town is almost entirely inclosed by walls of hewn stone.

After passing *Keau-san-yen*, the river takes a great turn to the west-south-west, which enabled us to set our sails again, and by their means to accelerate our progress. Our vessels being of
I light

light construction, sail very fast. We have no need to stop in order to eat together, as our vessels can join each other without ceasing to advance, the width of the river admitting of our sailing abreast. At nine o'clock, however, we cast anchor, in order that our sailors might rest till to-morrow morning.

At break of day the tracking-line was again brought into play, because the wind which had got round to the south-west, was consequently become unfavourable to our progress.

The country, on both sides of the river, which here grew a little narrower, was flat, and the soil rich and of a marly nature. The most elevated spots were covered with corn of a promising appearance, the others were under turnips. We afterwards saw a great number of fruit-trees, among which the peach was easily distinguishable by its blossoms. The mountains continued to shew themselves at some distance all round us, but they were rocky and discovered no signs of vegetation, except a little brush-wood; and even that was hardly perceptible.

At six o'clock we passed by the village of *Fouyang*, a well built place, and so agreeably shaded,
that

that it appeared as if it were buried among the trees. It stands at a little distance from the river.

At seven o'clock we were opposite an orchard which embellished our prospect during the half hour we were passing along it. Under the trees was barley already in the ear, which will no doubt be ripe before the trees, by resuming the green garb of summer, can intercept the genial influence of the sun. This fact serves also to prove that the farmers in this country know how to manage every thing with intelligence and economy.

At half past seven we had no longer plains on the north side of the river, which had taken a turn to the south, and now ran close to the foot of the mountains. We here passed up a narrow channel situated to the westward, and an hour afterwards found the two branches join again in one, after having formed an island of moderate size. This island is of considerable elevation, and although the surface is flat, and the soil of a fat and unctuous nature, is entirely planted with mulberry-trees, between which barley has been sown.

At three quarters past eight we had the village of *Tchi-long-chan* to the north of us, a small place, but containing some good brick houses.

At

At the foot of the mountains is a pretty large plain, extending to the water-side, and planted as well as the other side of the river with mulberry-trees, which makes it probable that the inhabitants employ themselves in the manufactory of raw silk.

In one of the angles of the valley which I have just mentioned, and upon the bank of the river, is a little square tower of seven stories, built of hewn stone.

At ten o'clock we passed by a common hexagonal tower, also of seven stories high. It is situated upon the salient angle of a mountain, to the north-west, and at no great distance from the water-side. Its roof has fallen in, and its ornaments of cast metal are bent down on one side. The extremity of the latter is, however, still higher than the top of the last story.

Half an hour afterwards we doubled the flank of a mountain skirted with steep rocks, and arrived off the city of *Fu-yan-chen*, where we stopped to take on board provisions.

That city, which is of moderate size, appears to contain some very well-built houses. It is
situated

situated upon the north bank of the river, which washes its walls. They are built of hewn stone, and pass over mountains while following all the windings of the city. A part of the inhabitants are employed in the manufactory of white *Nam-kings*.

In the course of our navigation I observed that a number of streams branch off from the river to the north-east. Between them are several flat islands, the soil of which is of an argillaceous nature. The river itself most frequently takes a south-west direction, following that of two chains of high mountains which seem to approach each other in proportion as we advance.

At eleven o'clock we quitted the city of *Fu-yen-chen*, washed on one side, as I have already said, by a large western branch of the river, over which is a noble stone bridge consisting of three equal arches. In the piers or uprights of this bridge are two other small arches, in the form of a gate, meant to give a freer passage to the water when it rises to that height. I gave an account of a similar bridge on the 21st of February; and these are the only two I have met with constructed in that way.

Seen at some distance in the south-west, the city makes a very splendid appearance. Behind it rise mountains of remarkable height, and the houses coated with white plaster, present a very attractive object to the eye. At the east angle, and within the walls stands a very high rock, the sides and summit of which are covered with houses and orchards, while the tower I have already mentioned, stands in a still more commanding situation. Few cities indeed can boast of a prospect surpassing that of which I am now speaking.

In the afternoon the wind favoured us by coming round to the northward. We accordingly hoisted our sails, and by its assistance made a rapid progress to the south. We had no longer any level ground to the eastward, the mountains coming close down to the water-side.

At three o'clock we found ourselves opposite the village of *Tan-tcha-coo*, a small, but very pretty place, consisting of brick-built houses, and occupying a very advantageous situation at the foot of the mountain, among an infinite number of trees of all kinds, and standing at some distance from the western bank of the river.

Soon

Soon after we quitted this village, the flat country was again succeeded by mountains, which did not begin to remove to a greater distance, till four o'clock, when they gave place in their turn to an extensive plain also on the western side of the river.

At five o'clock we came to *Chan-san-long*, another village of tolerable appearance, also built upon the western bank. Behind the village is a valley of some depth, between two mountains, entirely covered with fruit and forest trees. Upon a sudden the river considerably increased its width, making, when it came near the entrance of this valley, an elbow to the westward, which prevented its further approach.

Opposite this village, on the eastern side of the river, is another, very pleasantly situated in the midst of trees. It contains a large temple kept in very good order, and a number of good houses built of brick. The name of this village is *Lion-cha-pou*.

Further on to the westward, we also passed a very pretty hamlet, situated at the foot of the mountains; it is called *Sam-chan*, and is full of good houses.

At six o'clock we reached the village of *Chu-tien*, standing in a valley in the midst of trees; and at seven we stopped to take our usual repast near a guard-house and a triumphal arch of stone, erected on an elevated spot by the river-side. Our meal being over, we continued under way till ten o'clock, when we stopped again, in order that our people might have a good night's rest.

29th. Setting off at the dawn of day, we arrived at half past five abreast of the village of *Fong-cé-quan*, situated to the eastward. Here the river divides into two branches. We took the eastern one, which in about a quarter of an hour brought us to the village of *Tong-tchou*, a place very thickly interspersed with trees.

A little after six we had to the eastward the village of *Oung-tsan*, pleasantly seated on the side of the river, the two branches of which meet here, and continue to flow in a single bed.

Before seven o'clock we had passed by the two villages of *Tay-tchi* and *Tsy-tchi*, standing on the two opposite sides of the water. The former is a large and well-built place, upon the river-side, the bank of which is in that part of considerable elevation. The latter, which is of less extent, stands

stands under the shade of some old trees of prodigious size.

At a quarter past seven we reached *Tay-hou*, a village situated to the eastward. The intervals left between its handsome houses are full of fruit and forest-trees, with which the whiteness of their coat of plaster forms a very charming contrast.

In this part, the river is of little depth, and its bottom is full of stones. The country on both sides changes its appearance from time to time. Sometimes it is stony and rocky, but more frequently level. In general the ground is well cultivated, part being under corn, and part laid out in orchards in which fruit and other trees are intermixed. From this slight sketch it will be easy to conceive how agreeable must be that delightfully varied prospect, the beauty of which is much enhanced by the mountains in the back ground.

At three quarters past seven we had to the eastward the hamlet of *Tsy-pou*; standing upon a hill by the river-side. To the westward is the village of *Tiou-li-tchen*, which is hardly to be discerned amid the surrounding trees.

At eight o'clock we passed by a beautiful cascade, which after falling over rocks about eight feet high, mingles its stream, which falls from the mountains with the water of the river. A little further on, but in the middle of the river, is a ledge of rocks rising three feet above its surface.

A quarter of an hour afterwards we were abreast of the village of *Pay-pou*, situated on a rising ground upon the eastern bank, with a large pagoda of handsome appearance standing near it. At half past eight we had too great brick-kilns to the east; and to the west the little village of *Ou-nie-khan*, which although small, looks well on the outside. Soon after we reached another village larger than the last, called *Tcheou-tou-fong*. There, in one of the meadows that skirt both sides of the river, was a great number of horned cattle.

At the same place the river divides in two branches. We took the western one, and steered to the south-west.

At half past nine we passed by a pagoda called *Kiou-te-fong*, situated at the angle of a mountain which stands by the river-side. The outside is in good preservation; the road leading up to it is prettily

prettily planted with trees, and the pagoda itself is surrounded with pines. Between this mountain and one that follows it is a little valley entirely full of orchards and places planted with so much symmetry, that they afford a view as pleasing as that of a garden.

A little before ten we came to the city of *Tong-lu-chen*, standing by the water-side in a large plain terminated by two mountains. It is a pretty large place, well built with brick houses, coated over with plaster, and makes altogether a very lively and handsome appearance. At its north-east angle is a rock of rather remarkable form, the summit of which is covered with cedars and other ever-green trees. In the midst of them stands a pagoda, called *Tong-ching-chun*, and a convent occupied by priests or monks who marry, but do not shave their beards. The Chinese call them *Thaucie*. The temple, which is dedicated to *Thou-ti*, has a slender hexagonal tower of six stories standing close by it. From top to bottom it bears the marks of lightening, by which it appears to have been very much damaged. The two mountains attract the eye of the traveller to the same side, while the beautiful effect of the trees standing before the city in great number

upon the eastern bank of the river is not less worthy of his attention.

As soon as we had advanced a little distance beyond that city, our conductor stood over to the western bank, where we stopped abreast of a place prepared to receive him. Our vessels followed him, and we remained there till a quarter past three in the afternoon. In the mean time refreshments and provisions were put on board. Then setting off again, we had a quarter of an hour afterwards, to the eastward of us, a hamlet called *Ou-ouaa*, small, it is true, but exhibiting some handsome houses standing among trees, remarkable for the beauty of their foliage and the lively colours of their blossoms. Fields of growing corn surround this place.

During the whole day the eastern side kept our attention alive by constantly reproducing all the beauties of the most charming landscape. The inhabitants of these places must live in the enjoyment of easy circumstances, since we scarcely see a single habitation ill suited to a view embellished by prosperity.

At half past four we had a hamlet called *Nayen-thou* to the east of us, with a guard-house standing

standing near it. This hamlet is built along the banks of the river, and consists of neat houses, with thick plantations of trees behind them.

The river, by its shallowness, had already diminished our speed, but at half past five it suddenly contracted to one half of its width, without gaining any increase of depth. It was then that I began to perceive evident marks of a current, the river having before appeared almost stagnant, probably because we are at present in the driest season of the year, and because its wide bed is only covered by a thin sheet of water.

Stopping at six o'clock to take our usual repast, we set off as soon as it was over, and after having navigated till nine we anchored for the night, in order to give our sailors time to recover from their fatigue. The evening and the beginning of the night were rainy.

30th. The break of day was the signal for our departure. We proceeded as far as a place where the river becomes as it were a pass between two chains of high mountains. Although it had even acquired a tolerable width, it afforded no navigable channel except in the middle, that is to say, that there scarcely remained

maintained a foot of water under our vessels. In the rest of its bed there was not so much as twelve inches over a bottom of large stones. We advanced very slowly because our vessels frequently got aground.

At sun-rise we came to a place where we were in a manner shut in between mountains, which, although of a rocky nature, are nevertheless covered with grass and brush wood. They are also thinly interspersed with trees, some of which grow even upon their summits, though the greater part are upon their lower extremity. But the intervals and little vallies between the mountains are filled with a profusion of trees which form woods and groves of very pleasant appearance.

At half past six we came to the first deflection in this pass. It is at a place where there is a great opening or issue from between the mountains extending to the eastward. In this interval, and upon the side of the mountain, stands a hamlet called *Lou-ci*, with a guard-house or military post in its vicinity. This hamlet is well built of brick, and its houses, scattered at a distance from each other, extend as far as the middle of the gorge.

At

At seven o'clock we passed by an imperial pagoda of great antiquity. It is small, but in front of it stand three triumphal arches of stone, and more than a dozen monuments, of stone also, and loaded with inscriptions. Upon the summit of the mountains, in the part exactly opposite to this pagoda, which is called *Kiou-en-tay*, are two bare rocks, with a large interval between them. Upon the tabular surface of the top of these rocks stand two pavilions, of which the very roofs are constructed of hewn stones, that they may the better defy the hand of time. According to every indication they have withstood it for centuries.

In proportion as we advanced towards the south, the verdure that we perceived upon the mountains lost its uniformity, the bright tints of a variety of flowers appearing desirous of out-rivalling the green. One of the number was particularly beautiful. It was growing upon a sort of plant, which entwines upon hoops about a foot high, arranged on purpose, and forms a sort of ball, covered over entirely with flowers as white as snow.

At eight o'clock we were abreast of a hamlet called *Ling-chu-y*, having a guard-house for its protection,

protection. *Ling-chu-y* is situated at the entrance of a deep glen, and at the point of an angle made by the river. It is overshadowed by a great number of trees, while little plots of land, sown with corn and turnips in front of it, give it a lively appearance, which is increased by peach and plumb trees, whose flowers are an elegant ornament to this rural prospect.

Opposite *Ling-chu-y* is another glen or valley, exactly similar to the former, with three or four houses standing in it in a delightful situation.

At nine o'clock we passed by a village called *Pamh-haa*, a place of pleasing appearance, and built of brick. It stands to the south-east and upon the mountains, while in a gorge which they leave between them at the foot of the village, is a stream of water and a number of trees.

At half past ten we had the village of *Tsik-keiou* to the south-east, situated also in a gorge upon the declivity of the mountains, and overhung by very lofty trees. At eleven we were off *Passa-sie*, much resembling *Tsik-kieu*, and standing in a similar situation.

At this period of our voyage we again met with fishermen training up birds to fish for them, in the way I have described on the 26th of November.

At noon we at length came to the end of the pass or narrow channel, which, on account of its length, is called *Sat-chap-li-long*, or the serpent of seventy *li*.

Beyond this pass the mountains on the east side retire to a distance, and are succeeded by low plains extending along the river side. When there we were occupied more than an hour and a half in struggling against the force of the stream, in a space of two or three *li*, where the river was so shallow that we several times touched the ground.

At half past one we reached a navigable part. The river was become more narrow than before, but it had also acquired a rapidity of stream, which, be it said *en passant*, rendered the work of the trackers more laborious, since they were obliged to exert themselves to prevent the current from turning the vessels out of their direction. The eastern bank of the river was broad and gravelly, and the ground beyond it rugged and uneven.

uneven. All the parts susceptible of cultivation were sown with corn and turnips. The latter, which occupied the greater part of the land, were rendered very grateful to the eye by the brilliant yellow of the blossoms with which they were covered.

At three o'clock we had to the south-east of us a village called *Chau-li-pou*, situated upon a rising ground by the river-side, and containing a number of well-built brick houses. Half an hour after we came to another place, on the north-east side of which a temporary triumphal arch was erected, and about fifty soldiers were drawn up under arms. The Ambassador was saluted with three guns, and military music played during our passage. A little farther on we had upon one side of us an hexagonal tower of the usual form, situated upon the summit of a high mountain.

At a quarter past four we found ourselves abreast of the city of *Yen-cheou-fou*, where we stopped, in order to take fresh provisions on board. Two of the party availed themselves of this opportunity to take a walk in the city, in regard to which I have to observe, that permissions of this
kind

kind were every where granted us: The report they made of it was as follows :

The city is pretty large and well built; its streets are but indifferently paved, but contain handsome shops. It is situated in a great valley, entirely surrounded by mountains; the river, which here divides into two branches, running along its western side. Its walls in several places pass over the less lofty parts of the mountains. No place contains triumphal arches in greater number, since upwards of twenty were counted in only two streets. These indications of the abode of persons worthy of remembrance, mingles a sentiment of veneration with the sight of the place, to which they have given a just celebrity.

At a small distance from the city stands an Imperial pavilion. It is hexagonal, ancient, and of a handsome appearance, with a triple roof overshadowed by tall trees, but a want of repair begins to produce in it marks of decay.

Exactly in front of the city, upon a high hill planted with evergreen trees, such as pines, cedars, and cypresses, is a lofty hexagonal tower of seven stories, covered with plaster, and similar to another of which I have already spoken.

Near

Near to the one now in question is a convent and a large temple, standing also in the shade of trees. With what delight does the eye contemplate this noble prospect! My telescope enabled me to discern at the side of this tower, and at the foot of the mountain, another convent, which is almost entirely concealed by trees.

At six o'clock we proceeded on our journey. We took the southern branch of the river, whence we had a full view of the city, which affords a very pleasing prospect. At seven we made a halt to sup, and after another hour's navigation stopped for the rest of the night.

As soon as we came between the high mountains the river took a direction entirely westward.

31st. We got under way again at five o'clock in the morning. The river was nearly of the same width as yesterday, and we had likewise high mountains on each side of us. There was, however, a greater distance between them and the river, since there was always low land on one of the two sides of the latter, so that when the mountains approached one bank the other was constantly skirted by a plain, in which every little portion of ground susceptible of culture

culture was under corn, even to the very acclivity of the mountain, where some part of the slope was cut into terraces one above another, which produced a very pleasing effect.

At six o'clock we passed the village *Tchap-piou*, a pretty large place, containing some well-built brick houses. It stands south of the river, in a spacious plain, over which trees of great age and size throw a refreshing shade. We had this day thunder, accompanied by a little rain, but neither were of long duration.

I had occasion to observe that in this river the water does not run with equal rapidity; in some places the stream is of remarkable strength, and in others it is scarcely perceptible. I found it impossible to divine the reason of this, because the width and the depth of the river remained the same although these differences took place.

31st. At half past seven we passed by a hamlet called *Tban-na*, containing several brick houses. It is situated to the south, at the foot of the mountain, and full of trees. The lower part of the hills is most frequently planted with pines and other large trees, while their summits are frequently covered with trees of a different kind.

Timber for building and fire-wood are one of the principal productions of this province, where the trees grow with great luxuriance, particularly in the western parts.

At half past eight we reached *Tay-ang*, situated to the north-west of the river. This place, which is pretty extensive, consists of brick houses coated over with plaster.

If we may judge by a great number of piles of wood, it would appear that the inhabitants of this town, as well as those of most of the places by which we have passed for the last two days, carry on a trade in fire-wood and faggots, which are conveyed to other places by means of the river. The high grounds and mountains here afford an immense quantity. Almost opposite *Tay-sang*, upon the other bank, a number of trees, intermixed with brick houses, compose a very pretty hamlet.

After having gone a little further down the river we perceived at a small distance below the summit of a very lofty mountain, a bare perpendicular rock of so dazzling a white that it seemed to be covered with plaster, but on the sides several blackish stripes were distinguishable, no
doubt

doubt occasioned by the running down of the rain. It has all the appearance of a mass of pure marble.

At nine o'clock the thunder returned with greater violence, and was accompanied by a great deal of rain, which obliged us to stop till the storm dispersed. I observed at this moment that the water had no perceptible motion. I purposely threw several small pieces of light wood out of the vessel, but neither this means, nor the observation of other floating bodies, gave me the least reason to suppose that there was any stream.

The sun having resumed its splendour, in half an hour we also resumed our journey, passing to the south-east of the hamlet called *Maa-tcha-bau*, which is in the neighbourhood of a guard-house or military post. Its well-built houses stand partly by the river-side, while others extend as far as the bottom of a small shady glen or valley.

At a quarter past ten we came to a part of the river where three quarters of its width were filled with piles driven down to the edge, or left very little above the surface of the water, which here ran with considerable rapidity.

At noon we were abreast of a village called *Chang-hau*, situated to the west of the river, and built entirely of brick.

A little further on the mountains to the eastward began to retire to a great distance, and were succeeded by large level spots. The river being very shallow in several places, rendered our navigation exceedingly difficult.

At half past one we found ourselves abreast of the village named *Thong-fou-tsa*, and at two o'clock abreast of *Tching-co-laa*. Both these places, situated to the eastward of the river, are pretty large and well built of brick. Facing the latter stands the village of *Ouing-hou t'haa*, upon the west side of the river. The mountains grew more remote before we came to this place, so that when we arrived there we had on both sides a great extent of plain, divided into cultivated fields and embellished with young trees, which continually afforded views as rich as it would be possible to meet with in Europe. In the afternoon we again had thunder accompanied with rain, which lasted till five o'clock.

It was not more than three when we arrived at a part of the river where it ran at the rate of
at

at least six miles an hour. So that, notwithstanding the united effect of the tracking line, of our sails, and of the poles with which our sailors pushed us on, it was with the greatest difficulty we could stem the stream. We at length succeeded in overcoming this obstacle. Such a difference in the movement of this river surprised me much, and nobody was able to clear up this mystery, which my own personal knowledge was altogether unable to develope.

At four o'clock, having got past the strength of the stream, and the wind being fair, we sailed along at a great rate.

Soon after we were abreast of a lofty and handsome tower of seven stories, situated to the eastward, upon a high hill. Not far from thence we passed by a village called *Tchau-fon-thaan*, a very extensive place, standing in the midst of trees on the eastern shore. Almost all the houses are of brick, and covered over with plaster, forming, with the mountains behind them, a very beautiful prospect.

Opposite, on the western shore, is a large rock of a round form, consisting of a single block. In front of this mass stands a pagoda, and at a little

distance, but within it, a handsome village named *Kieou-tchen*, runs a good way inland. In this part the river had formed a large flat bank or island of pebbles, on each side of which it was navigable.

At half past four we passed through a large village called *Tcha-ou-vou*, the river dividing it into two parts, which are well built and full of trees.

At five o'clock we had to the eastward of *Hou-hou*, another handsome village, and a quarter of an hour after to the westward of *Nipou*, standing upon a small eminence by the water-side. *Nipou*, which is a pretty large place, has in a line with it, towards the plain, a village remarkable for its beauty, and still further embellished by very fine fields of corn. A great number of vessels lining the shore from one end of *Nipou* to the other, announce it to be a commercial place.

At about two hundred toises south of *Nipou*, upon the side of a hill, stands a pretty village called *Tsay-hou*, and in the intermediate space is a handsome country-house seated upon the bank of the river. On the east shore of the latter is also

also seen the extensive village of *Tong-pou*, standing in the midst of trees.

At sun-set we passed by a magnificent villa, situated to the eastward, belonging to a very rich man. It is composed of several handsome buildings covered with plaster, the whiteness of which is in a manner increased by a black border. One of these buildings is three stories high, and in each of the two upper stories are four windows looking towards the river, a thing seldom seen in China, where the outside of the houses consists only of dead walls, and where the apartments receive their light from the interior by means of court-yards. The vicinity of this habitation to the water, the moderate elevation of its site, the shade of the trees that surround it—every thing, in short, concurs to make it a delightful abode.

At seven o'clock we came to a village called *Tchie-pou*, a pretty large place on the western side of the river. Half an hour after we reached the city of *Long-ki-chen*, where we stopped to take our repast, while provisions were putting on board for the next day. This city, which is of considerable extent, enjoys the reputation of producing the best hams in the whole Chinese

Empire. I bought several of them, of which the outside at least does not detract from their character.

In the course of the day I perceived several head of oxen feeding in different places, whence it appears that the inhabitants of these parts are not entirely destitute of cattle.

We passed the night at *Lan-ki-chen*.

April 1st. At day-break we quitted the city, which at some distance makes by no means a despicable appearance. It is situated at the foot of a mountain, upon the side of which also several of the houses are built, and occupies an angle that the river makes with a branch falling into it from the south-east. At the south end of the city is an old and lofty tower, standing upon a hill, and still exhibiting in its seven stories marks of its former beauty, although at present it can be considered as little better than a heap of ruins. The rain which began at night did not cease with the appearance of day.

At half a league to the westward of *Lan-ki-chen* is an insulated mountain of a long and narrow form, with a river running at the foot of it ;

it; all the circumjacent country is flat and under corn. The mountainous parts are at a greater distance. At the western end of this insulated mountain stands the village of *Yon-oung-chan*, a handsome and extensive place, containing none but brick houses, which surpass in beauty those of the city. We have just left a city that would make an equally bad figure if compared to the common run of the villages we met with yesterday.

At half past six we had a village called *Tcheou-ping-pou* to the east of us, and on the opposite side *Tchau-ming-chau*, the outside of both bespeaking a sort of opulence. Shortly after we saw also to the westward, but at some distance from the river, a pretty village called *Tsy-ming-chan*, surrounded by arable land and interspersed with trees.

At a quarter past seven we passed by a place named *Nam-tcheou-ping-pou*, situated to the eastward on an eminence by the water side. Several of its houses, which are large and even two stories high, give it a very handsome appearance.

In the province of *Tché-kiang*, where we now are, all the arable land is regularly sown in squares,

squares, like a draught-board, several grains of corn being put into each hole. This arrangement renders the aspect of the fields very pleasing, especially now that the corn is a foot high, and exhibits the most promising marks of an abundant crop.

Thus do the Chinese prove, in every part of the Empire, that they are no way inferior to the Europeans in the art of agriculture, and they have at the same time the advantage of being able to boast that they carried that art to the perfection at which it is now arrived, whole centuries ago, while it is only within these few years that any nation among us has thought of improving ancient methods, and even that with little success, because the farmers, slaves to habit and to the example of their forefathers, adhere with obstinacy to the old routine. In vain is it demonstrated to them that certain changes are advantageous, either in the practice of agriculture or in the treatment of cattle. This is a thing of which they cannot be persuaded.

This reminds me of a fact relating to myself, which I request the Reader will permit me to narrate :

Some

Some years have elapsed since at my house called *De Haav*, situated in the Province of Guelderland, in the United Provinces, the business of agriculture and rural economy was carried on by men in my service who executed my plans under my own direction. All my neighbours remarked and even 'confessed that my method of managing cattle was superior to theirs, since my cows were in as good condition, and gave as much milk in the winter as the summer. To these evident proofs I added another, it was, that my profits being increased, covered all the expences occasioned by the new system, and yet, notwithstanding so many arguments, and the effect generally expected from the impulse of self interest, no one could persuade himself to follow my example.

Before eight o'clock we found ourselves abreast of the village of *Kiou-ming-chan*, which stands at a small distance from the western bank of the river, and which appears to be a very neat town. The plains are less thickly planted with trees than yesterday.

At nine o'clock we passed by the village of *Tcheou-seo-on*, situated like the former with respect to the river, and making a good appearance.

ance. At a quarter past nine we had a village called *Fi-tcho-o-oung* to the eastward, and *Tau-tchi-hong* on the opposite side. Both of them pretty large and well-built places.

A quarter of an hour after the long village of *Ou-tcha-u* was to the west of us. It is divided into several portions along-side of the river, and contains none but good brick houses.

At ten o'clock we had to the east of us, and at a little distance from the bank, *Lau-pon*, a large and handsome place, the beauty of which is much increased by a great number of trees. There is a military post close to the water-side.

Shortly after, the river dividing into two branches forms an island of considerable elevation, which is cultivated in several parts, and at the end of which we did not find ourselves till after a full half hour's navigation.

The bottom of the river continued to be full of pebbles, which for the most part are very abundant on its banks.

At eleven o'clock we came to the village of *Yu-chan-tchin*, standing in a plain to the westward,

ward, and at some distance from the river, which here served to turn several mills for husking rice.

The working of these machines, consisting of a spout which is favoured by a dam, which, by raising the level of the river, increases the fall of the water, as is done in the province of *Kiang-si* in regard to the mills of which I spoke under the date of the 4th of December, and which gave me an opportunity of saying what I repeat here, that the simple construction of these machines does honour to the genius of the Chinese.

At half past eleven we passed by a village called *Than-caan*, and at noon by *Nam than-caan*, both on the western bank. Near the latter is a guard-house, at a place where a stream coming from the westward falls into the river.

At half past twelve we came to a village called *You-cong-chan*, at which was a guard-house or military post. This village, situated upon the eastern bank of the river, is pretty large, but not so much so as the preceding ones which I have just mentioned.

At two o'clock we had *Fou-te-na* likewise to the east of us. This place, which is of considerable

considerable size, contains some handsome brick houses, several of them being two stories high.

By the river side we remarked ten water mills for husking rice. It is probable that this grain is brought here from other places; for the land lies too high to admit of much being cultivated in these parts. Several of the mills are now going, which confirms me in the idea I had conceived of the use of these machines.

At four o'clock we found ourselves abreast of *Ou-tchin*, a pretty large place, situated upon the eastern bank. A branch of the river coming from the south-east here falls into the principal bed; but as that branch is obstructed by a bar, it does not appear to be navigable. *Ou-tchin* contains a little hexagonal tower of six stories. It is very ancient, but has still some remains of its former beauty. The spire of cast metal, and the ornaments about it, of which I have already spoken several times, embellish its summit. Nothing else is worthy of notice in this place, which when seen however from a little distance, affords a very agreeable view.

Our

Our course, which, during the day had been generally south, now took a direction entirely to the westward. At half past four it ceased raining, and the weather became perfectly fair.

At five o'clock we had a village called *Ou-pay-tcheou* to the north of us. It is a pretty large place, consisting of brick houses, and containing a number of trees which are easily distinguishable, the village standing at no great distance from the river. Nearly opposite is another pretty village with lofty houses. It is called *You-lan-chan*.

At six o'clock we passed by *Tchit-tou-haan*, a pretty large village to the north. Behind it and towards the plain is a slender hexagonal tower of seven stories, standing on a hill. Between this village and *You-lan-chan* two tributary streams fall into the river, one coming from the north-west, and the other from the south.

A little beyond *Tchit-tou-haan* we perceived another large branch falling into that which we were in, and running in such a direction that the river and that branch are only separated from each other by a narrow tongue of land partly overflown. It might even have been supposed

posed that the two branches made but one; but I was convinced of the contrary by observing a little boat which was going up the other branch, and which was pushed forward by a pole applied to the tongue of land.—We stopped when we had proceeded a little farther to sup and pass the night.

During the day we saw nothing but plains and fields, growing wheat in some parts, in others rape-seed, which is beginning already to ripen.

It is easy to conceive that we found the temperature of the air growing milder every day. Within the last week the difference is very great. The soil appears to be here of excellent quality.

The navigation of the river was to-day much more difficult, because in general it ran with greater rapidity, and because in several places where its depth decreased the strength of the stream was still farther augmented. This double inconvenience materially impeded our progress up the river. Besides, the rain, which was accompanied by cold weather, made the labour of the trackers still more severe.

We

We set off again at break of day, still tracked as before, but assisted by a very small sail. The wind, which blew from the eastward, allowed us to make use of it, because we were steering to the westward. The weather was cloudy, and a slight mist made the air piercingly cold.

At seven o'clock we passed along the south side, which is concealed by a thick plantation of trees, and near which, at a small distance from the water, stands an hexagonal tower, of seven stories, and of moderate size.

To the south was a large hamlet, with several brick-kilns in the neighbourhood; while a number of water-mills for husking rice stood scattered here and there upon the banks of the river.

At half past seven we came to *Yac-tchin-san*, a kind of advanced post to the city of *Long-you-chen*. It is situated at the extremity of a point of land, which divides the river into two branches, while the city itself is seated in the plains at five *li* distance. *Yac-tchin-san* is a pretty large place, and appears to carry on a considerable trade in wood. We stopped there to take on board provisions, and did not leave it till half past nine.

Almost fronting it, and on the north side of the river, is the village of *Tsa-yu*. It is well built, and its extent bespeaks it a place of some note.

A little after ten o'clock, and on the north side of the river, we had a small chain of mountains of little elevation. The river at this part divides into two branches, which join again further to the westward, after having formed an island.

Not far from the place where it branches off we came to the village of *Tein-tia-t'haan*, where the stream ran so strong against us, that it was with infinite difficulty we doubled a point, although our sail was filled by a favourable wind, and we were still assisted by the tracking line. The rain had swelled the river, and increased the rapidity of its current.

At half past eleven we enjoyed the sight of the handsome village of *Tchin-tia-th'aan*, upon the south side. A quarter of an hour afterwards *Thing-ken-uun*, another handsome village upon the north bank attracted our attention.

A little

A little before I had remarked two towers at a great distance in the plain, one to the south-east, the other to the south. I was told that the first stands in the city of *Long-yon'-chen*, which I have just mentioned.

The plains to the southward were interspersed with a great number of trees, while those to the northward seem to be more particularly devoted to tillage and to fruit trees.

At half past twelve we passed by the village of *Long'-chen-yen* and an hour afterwards *Tang-thou-ouang*, both situated to the northward, and making a handsome appearance.

After another half hour's navigation we found ourselves at a village called *Yin-tchin*, which occupies both banks of the river. It was there that, for the first time, I saw orchards of considerable extent, entirely full of orange trees.

At two o'clock we came to *Nik-king-tchum'-than*, a village of tolerable size, and situated to the northward, a little way behind the bank of the river, which is here very high and uneven.

A quarter of an hour afterwards a handsome village called *Tchong-ua* was to the south of us, and the great village of *Ninngau-tchan*: but the latter lies in the plain, at some distance from the river-side.

In this part the river is remarkably serpentine, and divides into several branches, which form two little islands, or rather two banks of pebbles. The stream was here also very strong.

At three o'clock we had again two pretty villages upon the opposite sides of the river; viz. *Tsiang-si* to the southward, and *Nan-ka* to the northward. To the south the plain was interspersed with small hills and rising grounds, while mountains were seen at a still greater distance.

At half past three we passed *An-cin-tchy*, standing to the southward, and surrounded by a great number of trees. Half an hour after we had to the north of us *Yan-ching-ouang*, another village, divided into four parts, and containing a number of handsome brick houses. Here the little hills on the south side began to decrease in number, and left a greater extent of level ground. The navigation of the river was still rendered laborious and

and inconvenient by the combined effect of shoals and a rapid stream.

At a quarter past five we came to the village of *Chan-tong-chan*, pleasantly situated under the shade of trees, at a small distance from the north bank.

A quarter of an hour after we reached a village called *Ny-tchan-tau*, situated upon the side and summit of a rocky hill, and also at some distance from the water-side. Between these two places, on the banks of the river, is a vast meadow, the first of the kind that I have met with during my journey. Shortly after we came to an hexagonal tower of nine stories, in good preservation, and ornamented at the top by a handsome spire of cast metal. It stands on the north side, near the bank, is built upon a high rocky hill, and is called *Mang-tchan-thap*. It appears to have become the haunt of an immense number of herons, which are seen perched upon different parts of it, and passing to and fro between it and the river. Part of the village of *Ny-tchan-tau* is at the foot of this kind of rock, to the westward of the tower, and adds to the view afforded by the latter that of its handsome houses standing pleasantly in the midst of trees.

A considerable number of cows were grazing in the neighbourhood, and gave new life to the picture, with which was united the prospect of another large portion of the village, standing further to the westward, and inferior in no respect to the first-mentioned part.

At a quarter past six another place of the same kind, divided into several quarters, and intermixed with trees, attracted my attention. It was *Sang-chuon-suang*, which, seen from the river at this distance, seems to have its large and handsome houses dispersed on purpose to render them more remarkable.

A quarter of an hour afterwards we made a stop at a place upon the north bank, where the inhabitant's ship a great deal of charcoal made from pines burnt in the environs. Great numbers of those trees occupy the neighbouring heights and mountains. For the dispatch of all these cargoes there is only a single office or factory, which is built on the banks of the river, and at which the merchants engaged in this traffic assemble.

After having made a repast opposite this place, we proceeded upon our voyage. Shortly after
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we passed by a tower similar to that which I have just mentioned : it is named *Tchien-ning-thap*. At midnight we were still under way. In the course of this day we saw a great number of mills for cleaning rice upon the two banks of the river.

3d. Scarcely had a new day appeared, when we arrived abreast of *Kiou-tcheou-fou*, where we stopped two hours to take on board provisions. Then ranging along it, we directed our course to its western extremity, where we made another stop of half an hour. The city stands upon the south bank ; the river, which divides into two branches, forming a narrow island in the front of it, as long as the place itself. The bank upon which the walls are built is about twenty-five feet high ; and two handsome gates face the river. These were all I was able to distinguish of the city, because the surrounding ramparts hid every thing else from our view. It appeared, however, that it was a place of moderate size.

At a quarter past six we passed between two villages, the one to the south called *Yat-san*, the other to the north, both of them making a very pleasing appearance. Half an hour afterwards we had the small but handsome village of *Hong-*

tchap-pa on the north bank ; and at the same time to the south, but at some distance from the river, *Ouong-tchun-thaan*, a pretty large place. Handsome and lofty houses, and a great number of trees, render its situation very agreeable to the eye.

A little way beyond, the country on the south side presented broken hills to our view, that in the north had exhibited similar ones in the morning ; and from these latter some labourers were employed in extracting stone.

At a quarter past seven we had a beautiful prospect of a valley situated to the southward, and surrounded by hills thickly interspersed with rocks, in spite of which the industrious Chinese has found means to cover all the prolific spots with corn of the best sort, and the most useful seeds, up to the very top of the hills, by forming a kind of terrace, such as I have heretofore described.

This valley contains within itself every thing that could be expected from a vast extent of country. Not a single spot of its surface is neglected. With the lively hue of various kinds of corn are intermingled the deeper tints of the
4 orange

orange and other fruit-trees, whose luxuriant growth, in some measure, rivals that of the noble pines and lofty cedars that grow upon the neighbouring heights. That nothing, in short, may be wanting to this charming picture, a loud-murmuring cascade comes pouring down from the top of a rock, and runs into the middle of the valley, while the eye, which is alternately attracted by the bare parts of the rock, by the verdure of the plains, between which those rugged points seem to wish to hide themselves, and the new contrast afforded by the white foam of the falling water, is never tired of admiring a scene so truly picturesque, that no other part of the world is capable, in my opinion, of effacing its remembrance. So many united beauties are, however, the mere work of nature, without any other ornaments than those which she has herself created, or which have sprung up under the hand of the husbandman, as simple as herself. How great is the magnificence of this situation! Yes, I will venture to say that the most able master could not represent the attractive view afforded by this confined spot without weakening its effect, without suffering a part of the charms that pervade it to escape his pencil.

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At three quarters past seven we arrived abreast of *Tsau-tsi-pou*, a pretty large and handsome place, situated between lofty trees, at a small distance from the river.

A quarter of an hour after we had to the south a village called *Man-tchin-ching*, a place of decent appearance, built along the water-side. Here the stony hills on the south side retire from the river, and are succeeded by spots of level ground. Not one of these heights is left uncultivated. Every hill exhibits, to its very summit, proofs of the industry of the intelligent husbandman; and as the corn is already very forward, and the turnips, which are in blossom, are nearly full grown, all this country forms a picture which it is more easy to conceive than to describe, especially when I add that in several places the meadows are enlivened by the peaceful animals to which they afford an abundant nourishment.

We are then well convinced, from our own experience, that the Mandarins did not deceive us when they assured us at *Pe-king* that, by taking this route, we should see the finest and richest part of the Empire of China. And when the poor and wretched state of the western parts that

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we crossed in going to the capital is considered, and compared with the fertility and plenty which is every where perceptible in the east, it is impossible to reflect, without great astonishment, that the Emperors have left their ancient residence in the rich and plentiful country of *Nam-king* in order to fix it in the sandy and sterile district of *Peking*,

At half past eight we passed by a village called *Nam-tchang*, situated in the plain to the south, and pleasantly shaded by trees in the midst of fields laid out with corn. A quarter of an hour afterwards we had to the southward the handsome village of *Tsau-tsi*, and to the north *Quan-pou*, a tolerably extensive and good-looking place. There are two shoals in the middle of the river. Another hour brought us to a pretty large village called *Nau-tchun*, standing upon the north side, while to the south, at some distance from the water-side, was *Ting-tchu*, a place more considerable than the village.

At half past ten *Tchie-tchen*, another very extensive village, divided into four quarters, all of which made a good appearance, appeared in the plain to the northward.

Since

Since this morning the mills for husking rice have increased in number on both sides of the river, and many of them are at work. The greater frequency of these mills having led me to make more particular enquiries, I found that I had erroneously conceived an opinion that the rice which is here husked would not grow in any great quantity, on account of the elevation of the ground in these parts; for I learnt, with great astonishment, that all the fields that I now see growing corn have produced rice, and that as soon as the present crops are cut down and carried, rice will in its turn succeed them, there being two harvests of that grain in the course of the year. This I have no difficulty in believing, when I see the height of the other corn, which promises to be fit for the sickle in four or five weeks. The rains too, which happen towards this season of the year, by moistening the land, favour the germination of the rice. Besides, in case of necessity, the mills are set to work; and the water of the river supplies the want of that which the heavens withhold. It is not then astonishing that all this country is in so flourishing a condition, since it enjoys this double produce; indeed in every part it bears the marks of a truly delightful abode.

I collected also the following information concerning these mills: each mill belongs in common to several families, who have paid the first cost of its construction, and who defray the expences of keeping it in repair; but with this very remarkable singularity, that all the parties concerned contribute in proportion to their fortune, although all have an equal right to the mill. One mill keeps in play six or seven pestles, working in as many mortars, which furnish each sixty and some odd pounds of husked rice a day. It is possible there may be as many families interested in the mill as there are mortars employed.

In South Carolina in the United States of America, and at Java in the East Indies, wooden pestles and mortars are generally used, but here they are both of stone, which certainly abridges the work. At Canton stone mortars and wooden pestles are employed, because the operation being performed by manual labour, a stone pestle would be too heavy.

The Reader may perhaps imagine that the rice is broken by two stone instruments; but this is what I have never seen result from the method used by the Chinese. On the contrary, they ab-
solutely

solutely insist that the rice served up at table should combine the whiteness of snow with the entire preservation of the grain.

I have, however, a remark to make upon the Chinese mills ; it is, that their pestles work too slowly. In Carolina, in working their mills, they so manage that each pestle strikes sixteen strokes in a minute, in order, as they say there, to keep the rice hot, and in constant motion.

In 1786, when I was a planter in that state, I had constructed a machine according to my own ideas. Two horses set it in motion, and each of its pestles struck four and twenty strokes in a minute ; on which account it was considered as a great improvement. The Chinese mills, as far as my observation went, give but eight or ten strokes in a minute. It must at the same time be acknowledged, that in Carolina the pestles are commonly raised eighteen or twenty inches, while in China they are lifted from thirty-three to thirty-six inches ; which very much increases the action of the pestle by the increased velocity of the fall ; but on the other hand, the rice remains longer without motion, which would elsewhere be considered as a great objection. Be this as it may, it is to be presumed, that the Chinese.

Chinese find their method answer; or otherwise they would certainly exert their ingenuity to accelerate the movement of the wheel, and consequently that of the pestles.

With such convincing and repeated proofs before my eyes of the degree of perfection to which the Chinese have carried the art of agriculture; and recollecting again what M. Grammont, the Missionary, told me at Canton, in 1790; which I have mentioned elsewhere; that is, that at periods very remote, the Chinese have published learned books concerning this first of all arts; books, of which the translation would enrich Europe, by the depth of their theory, and by examples deduced from successful practice; recollecting these things, I say, I felt the strongest desire to obtain possession of some of their works on husbandry.

Accordingly, having an opportunity yesterday of conversing with our third conductor, a man of experience, and a well-informed literary character; he answered that each province, and even each city, has particular works upon agriculture, with precepts concerning every thing necessary to be observed by the husbandman throughout the extent of their district; that these books are
kept.

kept as sacred things, and deposited in the hands of commandants or governors of cities, who are not permitted to entrust them to any one; and that consequently it is in vain to think of procuring them, because they are not to be sold. The Mandarins of the cities are bound to give to the individuals within their district all the information that the latter may ask for, which seldom happens, because a knowledge of agriculture, held in esteem for several centuries past, has been transmitted from generation to generation; from father to son, with every particular of both theory and practice. This has rendered the science so general, that it is scarcely possible for any one to stand in need of further instruction. He promised me, however, to use his best endeavours to procure me the works which treat of cultivation in the province of Canton.

At three quarters past ten, we passed along *Tchie-than*, a very neat village, situated upon the southern bank. Here is a great shoal in the midst of the river.

At noon we came to *Pau-yuu*, a place standing to the south, occupying a great extent along that bank, and containing a great number of large and lofty houses, with windows in both
stories

stories looking towards the river. Upon an eminence opposite stands *Cau-tchie*.

At one o'clock we came to another village, called *Kiou-tau-than*. It is a place of some extent, situated behind the lofty southern bank, and entirely surrounded by trees.

To the north, the hills or little mountains have again advanced as far as the river side. The great mountains which terminate the horizon on both sides are also less remote, so that the quantity of level ground is diminished, and we even perceive by the distance that it will grow smaller still.

All the country we saw this morning was beautiful, and embellished by an abundance of forest trees, and a great number of orange-groves, which produce a very agreeable variety.

At two o'clock we came to *Tchau-yu*, a village standing in an elevated situation, although by the river-side. It is built at the foot of a little mountain, and entirely covered with pines. Near this village, which is of meaner appearance than those which precede it, is a guard-house, or military post.

Half an hour afterwards, the north side of the river presented to our view a large piece of meadow ground, in which a considerable number of cattle were grazing. In general we have seen more to-day than for several days past.

At three o'clock we were opposite a beautiful cascade, which falls with impetuosity down the mountain side, and which after dividing into three branches, rushes furiously over the rocks, which seem to oppose its inclination to mingle its waters with that of the river.

The latter, a little before it reaches this place, receives a branch coming from the south-east, which only leads to a new separation half an hour afterwards, and to the formation of an island of some height, and in a good state of cultivation.

At three quarters past three the foot of the high mountains on the south side advanced as far as the bank, while on the north side there was still an intermediate space of level ground. Here a storm arose, which terrified our Chinese sailors to such a degree, that they carried us close into the shore, in order that we might take shelter under it. A heavy shower of rain coming on afterwards,

wards, we resolved to stop at this place for the whole of the night.

The weather was so hot to-day, 'that Fahrenheit's thermometer rose to 79 degrees.

Being very near the place whence we are to make a journey of about a hundred *li* over land with all our baggage, the rain is a matter of some concern to us, as we are apprehensive of its rendering the roads execrably bad.

4th. A fresh and fair breeze induced us to set off at half past five; for otherwise the rain and a strong current would have kept us where we were.

Our vessels being light, and drawing little water, go very fast, and in my opinion at not less than the rate of ten thousand toises an hour; but such is the rapidity of the stream, that if our way be measured by the time we employ in going from one point to another, we do not advance at above a third of that rate.

At half past six we were a-breast of a village called *Chang-ou*. It stands at no great distance from the water side, towards the south-east, at

the foot of mountains, which afterwards turn off to the south.

At this place, the river by dividing into different branches, forms several islands and a number of sand-banks. It was very much swelled by the rain-water, which came pouring down from the mountains on every side, forming cascades in its way over the rocks.

At a quarter past seven we passed *Maa-tsu*, a very large village situated to the south-east, and composed of three detached portions, receding one behind another from the water side into the plain. The houses for the most part are handsome. That part that runs along the river side contains a stone bridge of a single arch, built over a considerable stream, which mixes its waters with those of the river. The bridge is in very good condition. Towards the middle of it, but upon one of its sides, is a stone pillar, with a lantern upon the top of it, in which is placed a lamp, that serves, during the night, as a guide to passengers.

While passing by several water-mills, I observed that the great wheel, by means of a little wheel, which revolves at the other extremity of the

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the same axle, and which serves to turn a horizontal wheel, gives motion to mill-stones, that strip the rice of the outer husk before it is carried to the mortar, in order to be cleansed from its inner one. This single machine then serves at one and the same time, to remove the outer husk, and to cleanse the rice, a double effect which I never saw produced by any machine in Carolina, where the first operation is separately performed in wooden mills.

At three quarters past seven we passed by *Suy-laam*, situated to the southward.

The wind freshening, we were obliged to reef our sails, which was not done till a vessel, having the servants of one of the Mandarins on board, had the misfortune to overfet. At a small distance from thence, we were almost entirely surrounded by mountains, having only a little level ground to the north. These mountains are almost bare, are destitute of trees, and afford nothing but a few worthless herbs, mosses, and other plants which generally grow upon rocks.

At half past nine, being near *Sam-ti-than*, a hamlet standing at an angle made by the river, we entered into another branch of it, which

takes a south-west direction, while the main stream runs to the north-west. We were now at no great distance from the city of *Chang-chan-chen*, where we are to quit our present vessels. In a number of reaches the wind was unfavourable, and the stream very strong, which gave a great deal of trouble to the crew, and was the occasion of our not arriving before eleven o'clock at the place where vessels usually stop a-breast of *Chang-chan-chen*. At his arrival the Ambassador was saluted with three guns, and the same honour was afterwards paid to me.

The city of *Chang-chan-chen* is very ancient, but not large, although its walls are very extensive, and pass over two mountains. Within them are to be seen the ruins of a very ancient tower, which stands upon a high hill, and of which six stories are still discernible. There is nothing else curious, nor any kind of manufacture or particular trade worthy of observation in this place. Its whole importance is derived from its serving as an *entrepôt* for all the merchandize that the provinces of *Tché-kiang* and of *Kiang-si* send reciprocally to each other.

We had been half an hour at *Chang-chan-chen*, when our third conductor came to pay us a visit, and

and delivered to me an itinerary of the route we are to take to-morrow if the weather permit. It includes a space of ninety *li* (eight leagues and a half). He begged us in consequence to breakfast early in the morning, in order that we may take our evening repast on board of the vessels in which we are to embark. On this account our cooks will be sent off at an early hour.

I immediately repaired to the Ambassador, to acquaint him with this plan. He agreed to it, provided it should not rain, not wishing to expose our baggage to injury, nor to suffer any inconvenience himself, since nothing required our reaching our journey's end on any particular day. Our arrangement is therefore entirely conditional.

The weather was to-day rendered cold by the rain; and the wind freshened in the afternoon.

We learned with great satisfaction that nobody was lost by the oversetting of the *Sampane*, which carried the soldiers of a provincial Mandarin, by whom we are escorted. We should have felt doubly hurt, if this mark of honour shewn to the Embassy had occasioned the loss of a single individual.

*Notice of a Collection of Chinese Drawings, in
the Possession of M. Van Braam, Author of
this Work.*

I.

GEOGRAPHY.

A volume of coloured maps, of about fifteen inches long by a foot high; exhibiting all China, divided into provinces.

II.

VIEWS AND LANDSCAPES.

Seven volumes containing three hundred and sixty-eight drawings; being so many coloured views and landscapes representing the most interesting places in all China.

Each drawing is eighteen inches long by thirteen and a half broad.

This part, which is the most extensive of the collection, and that which also required the most time to collect, was formed by the opportunities which a variety
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of circumstances gave M. Van Braam of obtaining copies of pictures; 2dly, and more particularly by the idea which he conceived of sending Chinese painters to travel at his expence throughout the whole of China, in order that they might collect views of every thing curious and picturesque which that country contains. 3dly, by the opportunity the Dutch Embassy gave him of seeing a number of remarkable things, and sketching them himself, that he might have them afterwards painted at Canton, as he says himself in several parts of his narrative.

That journey, before which M. Van Braam was already in possession of drawings of a great number of the places which lay upon his road, either in going to *Peking*, or on his return from thence, served to convince him of the fidelity of the painters who had enriched his collection with them; and naturally induced a belief that an equal attention had been paid to truth, with regard to places which he had no opportunity of seeing.

So great a number of drawings afford a great variety, and are highly gratifying to curiosity.

In the first place they give an exact idea of the general appearance of China; of its plains; of its mountains, which have a character that seems to be peculiar to them; and of its rocks, the form of which is in general strange and whimsical, when compared with those of Europe. They are often composed of blocks of greater or smaller magnitude, the rhomboidal regularity of which is striking. It is not uncommon to see some which are arched, and which leave between the kind of pillars,

pillars, or masses that support them, great open spaces, the boldness of which astonishes, especially where they stand over streams of water, as if intended for bridges by the hand of nature.

A view of rivers, of immense navigable canals, of dikes, of causeways, of the means of irrigation, and carrying off the water; of cascades, &c. frequently add to the interest of the picture.

It is gratifying to have a sight of a Chinese city, of the walls that surround it, and of the different monuments it contains; as well as to judge of the style of the architecture, and of the ornaments which it borrows from the chisel of the carver, and from the art of the gilder and varnisher.

In one drawing is an extent of country, embellished by all the charms of cultivation: trees, meadows, plants, animals, husbandmen, every thing, in short, puts in its claim to attention. In another is one of the Emperor's summer-palaces: in a third, a spot embellished by the pride of a Mandarin, or by the luxury of a private individual; while in a fourth it is the care taken to provide an asylum for pleasure, a dwelling for fanatical bonzes, or a retreat for philosophy that occupies the mind.

A perspective view of a castle, or of a guard-house, near which are soldiers differently clothed and armed; and that of an esplanade with large bodies of troops exercising,

exercising, also present themselves. High-ways, magnificent bridges, colleges, academies, bells, antique vases, places devoted to the dead; and clocks, which announce to man, that time, while flying carries him away, successively offer themselves to the eye of the observer.

In looking over this collection of views, it is easy to conceive how great is in China the activity of agriculture and commerce, those two great springs of political movement. Almost in every drawing are seen a number of vessels passing through the Empire in every direction. The beholder is struck with the variety of shipping, adapted to the different rivers and canals; and he stops with pleasure in places intended for embarkation and debarkments, which themselves give life to the picture. The various kinds of merchandize; the means used for the carriage of each of them; all that industry has conceived and executed to overcome the obstacles that nature sometimes opposes to it; and particularly that of the difference of levels between the water of several natural or artificial canals which communicate with one another, are so many subjects of investigation, amusement, and instruction.

It is impossible to examine this collection of drawings, without deriving from it another advantage—that of discovering in the inhabitants of China several traits which prove that their ideas are not always without some analogy to our own. This is, for instance, observable in a view of a temple of the God of Riches, to which those are thronging, who wish to solicit his favours.

Among the public edifices are salt magazines, and innumerable towers; with convents, pagodas, and mosques, which furnish a new proof that superstition is so powerful, only because she persuades man that she protects his weakness. The construction and decorations of these buildings often possess beauties, which, though dissonant from our taste, are not the less real.

We experience a different sort of sensation when we come to twenty drawings, which are so many views of different parts of the buildings erected in the European manner, within the immense circuit of the walls of the Emperor's summer palace of *T'uen ming-yuen*. When we know that this habitation is only one out of thirty-six occupied by the Emperor and his suite in that palace, we are naturally led to form a magnificent idea of the country, in which the gigantic plan of this imperial residence has been conceived and executed.

When after this we come to a representation of some cavernous mountains, and especially when we meet with that which exhibits men in a state next to savage, and without communication with the Chinese, whose language they do not even speak, it requires an extraordinary effort of the mind, to conceive the idea of a state which combines with an almost unlimited extent, a population we are tempted to believe fabulous, and an antiquity which has no longer any contemporary.

Perhaps this interesting part of M. Van Braam's collections has not always in the accuracy of drawing, or

in the colouring, what European eyes are accustomed to desire; but when we reflect that it is China that is meant to be represented, and that Chinese are the painters, we are disposed to believe that in some respects this manner is not without its advantage; and that the resemblance gains a great deal that it might have been robbed of by the more delicate hand of an European.

III.

VIEWS AND MONUMENTS OF CANTON.

Two volumes containing a hundred and ten coloured drawings, which are so many views of edifices and monuments in the immense city of Canton.

Each drawing is eighteen inches long by thirteen inches high.

As Canton is the only city in China where foreigners are allowed to land, and as even there they are only permitted to appear a few months every year within the limits of the suburbs, in which they are in a manner confined, it may be said with truth, that it is by Canton alone that the Europeans can judge of the whole Chinese empire.

This is then a powerful motive of attention to a set of a hundred and ten drawings, which exhibit every thing remarkable in that city, independently of several other drawings comprized in that part of M. Van Braam's collection,

collection, containing the views and landscapes of which I have already spoken.

A city of astonishing population; a city become the *entrepôt* of almost all the foreign trade carried on by the Chinese, must offer to the eye of the observer a multitude of curious things of every kind.

Among them are a great number of pagodas and convents, exhibiting along with their different details the most strange and monstrous productions of superstition; palaces in which the civil and military governors reside; monuments serving as so many asylums for the wretched of every description, age, and sex; edifices occupied by the different branches of public administration, rice and salt magazines, an arsenal, &c. &c.

These drawings afford us an opportunity of studying and comparing the civil, military, and religious habits, as well as the manners and usages of the country. From them we may derive a knowledge of several arts, of the processes they employ, and of the manner in which the Chinese apply them in their different kinds of architecture, and in decorating, ornamenting, and furnishing all kinds of edifices and monuments whatever.

These two volumes also afford a variety of means of judging of the effect produced upon the Chinese mind, by an assemblage of men which perhaps surpasses that of the largest cities in Europe; and the philosopher and the moralist may there find more than one subject for reflection on seeing that man, whatever part of the globe

he may inhabit, always unites in his conduct, his conceptions, and his works, the most striking contradictions.

Some of these drawings also represent public executions. Guilt is then the produce of every foil; and it will doubtless appear that the necessity of punishing has not been combined in China with the principles which humanity dictates in favour even of the greatest criminals.

IV.

THE PAGODA HAAY-TSONG-TSI.

In the Island of Honan, opposite Canton, with the Temples, the Convent, the Buildings belonging to it, &c.

This volume contains forty-eight drawings, eighteen inches long by thirteen high.

The artist has endeavoured, by the numerous details contained in them, to give an exact and complete idea of every thing belonging to a celebrated pagoda, which seems calculated to interest Europe more than any other, because it was within its walls that the English Embassy of Lord Macartney was received at Canton and had an audience of the *Tsong-tou*, and because the Dutch Embassy which gave occasion to the present work had there also several audiences of that Viceroy*.

* Lord Macartney's lodgings were in the garden of a merchant named *Lopqua*, separated from the convent of this pagoda by nothing but a wall, in which is a door of communication that served the Ambassador as a passage from one to the other.

A bird's-eye view shews the whole assemblage of edifices of which this pagoda is composed, and the rest of the drawings exhibit a variety of details, particularly very rich idols, figures, and statues, which to us are certainly entirely new.

V.

MYTHOLOGY.

Two volumes, containing each a hundred and fifty drawings of seventeen inches high by a foot in breadth.

This part of the collection exhibits the figures of a hundred gods and goddesses, and of several personages considered as the ministers, agents, or servants of an Almighty Being, of a God superior to all others.

Among these divinities, lightning, thunder, wind, rain, fountains, fire, cooks, and carpenters, have theirs. We also meet with those of goodness, prosperity, secrecy, fertility, and immortality; as also a god who protects against injustice and the violence it does not scruple to employ; and another who saves from despair. The healing art has its god, the physicians have another, and death has also his.

In this set of drawings, which represent the whims and weaknesses of the human mind, at the same time that they discover some ideas that do it honour, the observer may perceive analogies, study the immediate and remote relations of certain attributes, and convince himself of the extravagant lengths to which the ima-

gination is capable of going when it takes superstition for its guide.

These drawings are also remarkable for the richness of their colouring, and for the success of the painter in representing the dresses in which the divinities have appeared to the Chinese through the medium of those who no doubt think, that the better to command the respect of the vulgar, gold and silver, which are also divinities, ought to shine upon them intermingled with the most brilliant colours.

VI.

HISTORY.

Three volumes containing a hundred and twenty drawings.

Here we may trace the successive discovery or rather invention of the arts in China. Man, in his primitive simplicity, and half naked, exercises his industry by degrees, and becomes hunter and fisher. He constructs dwellings to shelter him from the inclemency of the seasons. From the very employment of his natural means, from his inclination to society, proceeds civilization; his strength and his intelligence increase by his union with other men; he becomes a cultivator, and after having defended his crop from the ravages of animals, he thinks of subjugating some of them in order to make them assist him in his labours. Thus do we see the birth of rude but useful arts: these indicate at a distance, more or less difficult to measure, those of a politer

politer kind. With so many new ideas arises the necessity of expressing and transmitting them, which at length produces the efforts and the success of genius.

By entering into these details, suggested by the drawings themselves, it is not meant to give a complete idea of them; for the above view of things belongs to the history of every people and of all nations, while that of China has its peculiar characteristics. They are the more curious to study in these hundred and twenty drawings, as they are in fact so many pictures of eighteen inches by fourteen broad, in each of which a subject is presented embellished with, or at least accompanied by all the interesting accessories the painter has been able to add: battles on land, sea fights, encampments, conflagrations, and various other scenes of destruction; every thing bears a character which affords room for more than one observation. The accuracy of the drawing, the freshness of the colours, every thing, in short, combines to render the subject more interesting; while in architecture, in usages, in habits, in furniture, in productions of the three kingdoms, in landscapes which exhibit a country little known, these two volumes furnish details, all of which are worthy of praise.

VII.

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

A volume containing twenty-four drawings, each seventeen inches long by thirteen broad.

The circumstances which belong to the different ranks in China, or which serve to characterize them, have been applied to the different periods of human life.

Here then we discover the different gradations from the birth of a child to the death of a man, with the intermediate occurrences of education, admission among the men of letters, honours paid to the Mandarins, sicknesses, &c. &c.

The drawings are coloured as well as all the rest of the collection.

Two volumes containing a hundred drawings, thirteen inches high by a little more than nine inches broad.

These are so many coloured performances representing the primitive inhabitants of China; the first Emperors and their wives; Confucius; the Emperor *Kien-long*, to whom the Embassy was sent; the Empress, his wife; principal Ministers of State; Mandarins of all ranks; military candidates exercising themselves in order to merit promotion; soldiers of all descriptions; inhabitants of town and of country; players; beggars; male and female bonzes; the different individuals composing the train of Mandarins, &c. &c.

The end of these two volumes is composed of fifteen drawings, representing different kinds of torture and punishments in use in China, almost all of which exhibit a degree of cruelty highly afflicting, both because it can have been thought necessary, and because it is insufficient to prevent the commission of crimes.

PARTICULAR MANNERS OF THE CLERGY.

Two volumes containing each fifty coloured drawings, seventeen inches long by thirteen inches broad.

The first of these drawings represents the introduction of idolatry into China, and all the rest serve to prove the prodigious success it has obtained. By going through this collection a complete idea is obtained of all the usages and ceremonies of the Chinese clergy, which is composed of both sexes.

There, as well as elsewhere, the manners of the clergy, which, properly speaking, constitute its history, are distinguished by traits characteristic of the blindest credulity, kept up and strengthened by hypocrisy, which teaches what it does not believe; and by superstition, the ministers of which counsel and preach by turns whatever it has made them adopt,

True philosophy cannot help deploring both these errors, and the absurdity of worshipping idols; but will it be able to cure human reason?

GAMES.

A volume in which are thirty-two drawings, sixteen inches long by thirteen inches broad.

They represent a like number of games with which the Chinese exercise or amuse themselves. Among them we recognize those of the scourge-top, quoits, and bowls.

All these drawings are coloured; each contains several figures, and the study of manners and *costume* may also derive some advantage from them.

VIII.

ARTS AND TRADES, AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURES, FINE ARTS, &c.

Two volumes containing each fifty coloured drawings, which represent different Chinese arts and trades, with figures in action, and serving to characterize each profession.

This part of the collection, which is executed in a very pleasing manner, affords a knowledge of several tools; of a variety of utensils, and of the form given to them; as well as several articles of furniture. They also give us an exact idea of the habits of the people; indicate their usages; and sometimes exhibit traits of the Chinese character.

A volume containing forty-eight drawings, fifteen inches long by a foot broad, viz.

Twelve drawings relative to the culture and preparation of rice.

Six drawings relative to the cultivation of the cotton-tree, and to the preparation and working up of the cotton.

Six drawings which exhibit the mulberry-tree, the breeding of silk-worms, and the preparation of the beautiful substance which that insect produces.

Eight

Eight drawings which contain details of the art of making porcelain.

Four drawings exhibiting operations belonging to a pottery.

And, lastly, twelve drawings all relative to the culture and gathering of the different sorts of tea.

Each drawing is a picture in which a number of individuals of both sexes are seen in action. But what renders this part of the collection particularly interesting is its not containing a single drawing that is not at the same time a delightful landscape, in which the painter has collected, with a remarkable degree of truth, every thing that is most agreeable and striking in China, either in situations, mountains, rivers, streams, trees, fruit, flowers, habitations, instruments of husbandry, their different uses, &c.

In the processes of the arts the same variety is to be found; and the same information is to be gained from a representation of a number of machines and different tools: in a word, it is impossible to examine these designs, all drawn, coloured, and shaded with remarkable taste, without bestowing praise upon the painter who produced them, and who found means to intermix with a number of useful processes, curious details relative to the *costume*, and even traits of character of several classes of Chinese.

A volume containing two drawings relative to the manufactory of glass, thirteen inches long, by eleven wide.

A fisherman,

Two drawings relative to printing.

Four concerning the art of making porcelain.

These seven are eleven inches long, by thirteen inches high.

Eleven drawings, exhibiting games, among which is the swing; tumblers, and performers of sleight of hand; a fortune-teller, &c.

MUSICK.

A volume, in which are thirty-three coloured drawings representing a like number of women playing upon different musical instruments in use in China.

From this volume we get a knowledge of those instruments, and a good idea of the female dresses.

Each drawing is sixteen inches wide, by thirteen inches broad.

SHIPS, VESSELS, BOATS, AND BARGES.

Two volumes, containing each a hundred and fifty drawings, sixteen inches and a half broad, representing vessels of all kinds, such as are employed in China in the different branches of navigation.

They are all drawn and coloured after nature, so that a judgment may be formed of all the modes of Chinese naval architecture, from ships of war down to the smallest boat. The external ornaments, the internal details, the contrivances used in the navigating of the different vessels; every thing in short is expressed.

Here we distinguish the Emperor's *Sampane*, or pleasure barge, which is denoted by a kind of dome with peacock's feathers and five-clawed dragons upon it; other *Sampanes*, from that used by the Mandarin of the first rank, or by the courtesan who abandons herself to the votaries of pleasure, down to that which waits in expectation of being hired by the private individual.

In this collection are also found vessels for long voyages, coasting barks, *junks*, yachts, *sapentines*, custom-house boats, those that are required by the depth of different rivers, either for travelling or for the conveyance of salt, rice, cotton, tea, faggots, oil, stones, &c. those in which traders of different kinds display and carry about the articles they wish to dispose of, among which we see the shop of the butcher, florist, fruiterer, &c.

The

The different kinds of fishermen's boats, passage vessels or hoys, and the boat that serves for breeding ducks and the hatching of their eggs make part of this collection.

In it are also to be found the rafts that carry rice, fire-wood, and timber for building; a sort of boats constructed for speed, and in general employed at certain times of the moon in matches, in which the sailors endeavour to display their talents and their strength, and to outgo one another.

Among these vessels some go with one or more sails, others with oars, and others again with paddles. Those meant for matches are of the last kind, and carry as many as six and twenty men. The rivers are sometimes navigated by means of the tracking-line, and even of poles, as is stated in the Journey of the Dutch Embassy.

Independently of the variety that the things themselves produce in these two volumes, the eye is delighted with the accuracy of the drawing, and with the elegance and the delicacy of the details. The observer also draws from them ideas concerning the habits of the Chinese, and a number of customs, particularly that of indicating, by established signs, the habitual or momentary destination of the vessel, or the quality of the persons it is conveying.

Finally, when we reflect that in China several millions of individuals are born and die on board of vessels without ever possessing any habitation but these floating

houses

houses, in which whole families lead a sort of amphibious life, we feel a still stronger interest while examining this collection, which at the same time calls to mind the most daring attempt of man.

IX.

NATURAL HISTORY.

FISH, AND CRUSTACEOUS ANIMALS.

Two volumes containing eighty drawings, a foot long by about nine inches high, in which are drawn and coloured after nature fresh and salt-water fish, sea-snakes and eels, lobsters, and shrimps, the thornback, the mackarel, the swift-swimming trumpet-fish, the voracious shark, &c. &c.

An idea may be formed from these two volumes of the advantage possessed by the Chinese painters in the use of gold and silver. The last metal especially, when employed in painting the scales of a fish, gives a singular degree of truth to the touches of the pencil. It is no exaggeration to say that these animals appear alive upon the paper, on which the artist has represented them with a degree of care that has preserved every trait, and all the delicacy of the model.

BIRDS.

A volume consisting of fifty drawings, fifteen inches and a half long by fourteen inches high.

These

These drawings, full of different birds, and coloured after nature, are most beautiful pieces. The painter seems to have taken particular pleasure in the representation of those charming creatures, whose forms, more or less various, more or less elegant, are all embellished by a robe, in which nature displays her most brilliant tints, combined with a degree of taste which belongs to her pencil alone.

While viewing this ornithological part of the collection, while admiring these interesting animals which seem to breathe, it is impossible to avoid remarking the art with which the painter has placed them upon the different plants which each species affects, and in the most elegant attitudes. We thus enjoy a double pleasure, while learning something of their nature and habits. The aquatic bird sometimes discovers traits, which are the more easily perceptible, because he is associated in the same drawing with a land bird; while two different plants, by being brought together, strike the eye more forcibly, and make an agreeable contrast with the water, which indicates the inclination of the animal capable of existing in both elements.

When the male and female of the same species have any remarkable difference in their forms or feathers, that difference has been observed and expressed.

It is in this part of the collection that we are never tired of admiring the art of employing those beautiful colours that seem to belong exclusively to Asia. It is so
much

much the more valuable, as the plants, flowers, and fruit introduced along with the birds make it an excellent supplement to the other volumes set apart for the vegetable reign.

We are pleased also to find in it several birds of other climates, which belong also to one of the three parts of the globe, and sometimes to them all.

INSECTS, REPTILES, AND CRUSTACEOUS ANIMALS.

A volume containing forty-six drawings, of about a foot long by nine inches high, in which are drawn and coloured after nature, insects, reptiles, crustaceous animals, &c. Among them we particularly remark the bee, the wasp, several species of the dragon-fly, crickets, grasshoppers, spiders, cock-roaches, a variety of flies, wood-lice, millepedes, beautiful butterflies and caterpillars, snails, the toad, the frog, the crab, the mountain crab, the mabouya, the small lizard, the viper, &c.

The truth with which every thing is represented, even in the most minute details, the beautiful colours which embellish those different animals, and which seem still more brilliant in the butterflies, cannot fail to charm the eye of the naturalist.

FLOWERS.

Three volumes containing a hundred and forty-eight drawings of flowers, drawn and coloured after nature.

In

In three of these volumes, and particularly in one of them which contains fifty-eight drawings, each flower is seen upon a bit of the plant, shrub, or tree, to which it belongs, so that a judgment may be formed of the colour and nature of the bark; of that of the leaves, of all the parts of efflorescence, and sometimes even of those of fructification.

Among these flowers, of which the greater part to other parts of the world, are the everlasting, the poppy, different kinds of roses, the narcissus, sun-flower, lilack, various species of pinks, the auricula, grenadilla, balsam, tube rose, great nightshade, apocynum, the flower of tobacco, of the cotton-tree, of the orange, of the palmachristi, &c.

It would be impossible to express the truth with which these flowers are painted. The talents of the Chinese in this way are well known, and a well-merited homage is paid to them on seeing what they have produced in this collection. The eye is as much delighted as it can be by an imitation which exhibits all the grace and all the delicacy of the original.

Each drawing is fifteen inches high by twelve broad.

FRUITS.

A volume in which are forty-eight drawings of fourteen inches high by eleven broad, exhibiting an equal number of fruits almost always placed upon a bit of the branch, and sometimes even upon the flowers.

The

The apple, pear, grape, peach, plumb, pomegranate, *Le-tchi*, rose, apple, (*la pomme rose*), shaddock, walnut, the averrhoa, orange, banana, &c. &c. are among the productions inserted in this volume; and the just praise given to the flowers is also due to the fruit.

PLANTS, TREES, SHRUBS.

A volume containing thirty-six drawings fifteen inches and a half long by thirteen inches high.

These are so many trees kept in a dwarf state. They resemble little old men, who should unite the characteristics of youth and vigour with those of age. This class of vegetables in which man has strangely associated the two extremes, are much esteemed in China, and cultivated with great care in their courts and gardens.

They are painted and coloured after nature, and represented entire; so that an exact idea may be formed of their general appearance, and of their foliage. For this part of the collection such objects have been selected as the Chinese prize the most.

Truth in the imitation, brilliancy of colouring, and beauty of design, every thing in short is united; and to give these drawings an additional grace, the painter has put each tree in a vase of which the form is constantly elegant, although it varies continually as well as the colours he has chosen, either for the purpose of making
them

them harmonize, or contrast agreeably with that of the tree itself; in a word, the most exquisite taste has directed the whole of this work.

Independently of these thirty-eight volumes, containing about eighteen hundred drawings, which I have just mentioned, and distinguished by the title of M. Van Braam's Collection of Chinese Drawings; independently of a number of maps, charts, and plans, some of which relate to the present work, and of drawings that are not contained in the thirty-eight volumes already enumerated, M. Van-Braam has brought over a very considerable number of other curious things, which are intended to ornament his house and apartments; and of which the nature and taste are calculated to suit their destination.

Among these things I must particularly specify four.

One is a vase of rock crystal, supported by the trunk of a tree, and embellished with a garland of flowers. This vase, which is eight inches high, and thirteen inches in circumference at the middle, consists with all its accessories of a single stone. This beautiful cup, the dimensions of which alone would make it a rarity, is also deserving of admiration, on account of its external workmanship, which is exquisitely finished, and on account of the labour to hollow it and polish the inside.

The second consists of two pictures three feet long by two feet high, in each of which, upon a tree of brown sandal wood, ornamented with branches, leaves, and
flowers,

flowers, of different kinds, skilfully shaded, are fifty birds, making twenty-five couples, all of ivory, and coloured after nature.

Taste has so happily presided over the composition of these pictures, that the eye discovers without effort the male and female of each species, while the diversity of plumage is calculated to improve the appearance of the whole, and to give to each part its peculiar beauty. The advantage to be drawn from a variety of attitudes is not to be overlooked; and they serve also to indicate something of the particular character of the different birds of which this delightful assemblage is formed.

The third is a *furniture de table* executed in China, according to the ideas of M. Van-Braam: it is composed of seventeen detached pieces.

The middle one, thirty-six inches high, with a base of eight sides (*pans*) twenty-eight inches long by twenty-two broad, is made in the Chinese fashion: that is to say, it represents rocks interspersed with pagodas, human figures, bridges, trees, fruit, flowers, quadrupeds, birds, insects, &c. The greater part of these things are of silver wrought in different coloured filligree, while the fruit and flowers are of coral, amber, and other substances equally valuable, and even of precious stones. To this assemblage, at once picturesque, noble, and elegant, are added basons and streams of water, in which are fish and crustaceous animals of a variety of kinds, and of the most brilliant and striking appearance.

The two other principal pieces, or *bouts de table*, which are each twenty-six inches high, with an octagonal base twenty-two inches long by eighteen inches broad, correspond in beauty and richness with the middle piece, and are of analogous composition.

All the three display a considerable degree of magnificence resulting from the nature of the objects thus brought together. The eye is attracted by them all, and when after having wandered from part to part, delighted with so much variety, it begins to distinguish the different things employed in these noble compositions, it still hesitates between their different beauties, before the moment comes when its enjoyments are renewed, almost incessantly, by a minute examination of each pagoda, of each figure, of each tree, and of each animal; every one seeming to claim a preference continually disputed by the rest.

Eight other pieces consist of a like number of flower or fruit-bearing trees, surrounded by plants, which add to their effect by harmonies and contrasts equally happy. The coloured gold and silver, the filligree work, the amber, the coral, and precious stones which ornament them, and embellish their different parts, are an additional gratification to the eye. They also contain dishes intended for ragouts and the lighter kinds of viands, which are rendered more inviting by the elegant way in which they are served up.

Finally, six other pieces, serving as so many lustres, round which trees, fruits, flowers, and animals are placed

placed, as if on purpose, that the light of the candles may exhibit to the greater advantage both their graceful and singular forms, and the genius with which the Chinese artist has represented every thing, complet a whole that the *amateur* can never sufficiently admire.

I am sensible that it is easy for a person who has not seen this *furniture de table*, which is calculated to embellish the most distinguished festival, to think that flattery has directed the pen of him who describes it; but any one who has examined it with the attention it deserves, will reproach my ~~pen~~ with having weakened the impression it has attempted to re-produce.

The fourth thing I have to speak of, is a collection of more than a hundred figures and other articles, all of bamboo, which shew to what extent sculpture is carried in China, and what degree of perfection a Chinese hand is capable of arriving at in that delicate sort of work.

Since I have spoken of two of the pictures of M. Van-Braam, I must add that in his collection of articles of that kind, there are also a great number of copies made by Chinese painters, either in miniature or oil, and painted on canvass, glass, or ivory, from several subjects, originally painted in Europe, and particularly in France. These copies derive from the brilliancy of the colours, and from the ornaments added in China, particularly those of the vegetable kingdom, a merit peculiar to themselves.

In short, the furniture, ornaments, every thing at M. Van-Braam's remind us of China; and the estate he has bought for his own residence at six leagues from Philadelphia, and at a league from Bristol, and which he takes a pleasure in embellishing after the manner of the country he has lately left, will merit, in more than one respect, the name of *The Chinese Retreat*, which he has given it.

THE EDITOR.

[The public will learn with pleasure that M. Van-Braam has offered this valuable collection to the Executive Directory of the French Republic; that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is not ignorant of its merit, and who will not be accused of losing any opportunity of favouring artists and the arts, has accepted this handsome offer in the name of the government; and that every one will soon have it in his power to compare the collection with the account given by the editor.]

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Monthly Review, Dec. 1797, p. 365.

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